

FREE

Kent on Sunday

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North & West Edition No 611

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Down but not out...

**Commissioner Ann Barnes fights on
as fallout over TV farce continues**

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Don't be too hasty to join the 'hang the PCC' brigade yet...

A COUPLE of weeks before the very first elections for the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, we went on to the streets armed with photographs of all the candidates to see if anyone recognised them.

No-one had an idea. Which was troubling for a role which was supposed to act as something of a conduit between the police force and the public.

Yet, two years on, and you'd have to be averse to any form of local or national news not to at least now recognise the name of Ann Barnes. Unfortunately for her, that fame teeters agonisingly close to infamy at times today.

Of course, it's easy to say she's been naive, to criticise her for courting publicity. But her role almost demanded it, if indeed this experiment was to prove a success. If no-one knows her, then it is, as a consequence, a failure.

Ann Barnes has, let's not beat

about the bush, made some truly dire judgement calls during her term in office. And should she make the police force a laughing stock by association she should resign. No ifs, no buts.

What we also need to be clear on though is that she hasn't somehow become the devil incarnate. And the need to show political clout, or score easy political points, should be carefully considered against what we may get should she leave.

Ann Barnes is far from perfect, but she has the knowledge, and has the experience. All she now needs to do is apply the commonsense that we assumed would go with it, to ensure she doesn't shove her foot so far down her own throat again she cannot survive.

Regardless of what you think about Mrs Barnes and her capability to do the job, the drama of it all has certainly provided a fascinating spectacle. Have a great weekend.



Editor **Chris Britcher**



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Row erupts over plans to extend nuclear reactor

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A GREEN MEP has slammed an energy firm for attempting to change safety standards in an effort to extend the life of the nuclear power station at Dungeness.

The Dungeness B reactor is currently scheduled to close in 2018.

But now EDF Energy, which runs the site, says it is applying to allow greater flexibility on a key safety regulation.

The suggestion has been blasted by MEP Keith Taylor who has demanded Dungeness be removed from EDF's hands and the reactor decommissioned as planned, if not sooner.

EDF intends to extend the life of the plant by allowing more wear and tear to the special metre-high bricks at the core of the station. They are used to line the reactor cores and help prevent radiation leaks.

After decades of being hammered by violent radioactive energy, the bricks are slowly worn down and can crack.

The level of that wear is closely monitored and subject to rules laid down by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR).



POWER: Is Dungeness set for new lease of life delaying closure plans?

It says once a brick has lost 6.2 per cent of its original weight, their life has ended and due to the nature of nuclear reactors, cannot be replaced.

EDF has seen the elderly power station bricks reach 5.7 per cent, and now wants to extend their life to a point where they have lost eight per cent.

But Mr Taylor says such a move would be dangerous. He said: "It's highly worrying that EDF are attempting to lower a key safety

standard. Safety limits are there for a reason, and re-writing these simply to keep the reactor online for another few years suggests that EDF think profits are more important than safety.

"Dungeness is out dated, and needs to be decommissioned as soon as possible to make way for safe jobs in renewable energy production.

"The power plant has had a number of unplanned shutdowns in recent months due to safety

concerns, and one of these closures – which lasted five months – was kept hidden from the public by EDF. This lack of transparency is deeply concerning.

"It is clear to me that Dungeness B is not safe in the hands of EDF, and should be decommissioned."

Martin Pearson, station director at Dungeness B, said: "We take a cautious approach, work closely with the regulator and operate with very conservative safety margins."

Concern as number of road deaths and injuries cases show sharp rise

THE number of number of people killed or seriously injured on the county's roads showed a worrying spike last year.

Figures verified by the Department for Transport on Friday revealed injuries or deaths rose by 13 per cent in 2013 compared with the previous 12 months.

In total there were 650 incidents in 2013 compared with 575 in 2012.

Now efforts are to step up to bring the figure down again after the ten years between 2000 and 2010 saw a remarkable 50 per cent decline in the numbers.

However, it is thought the long hot summer may have contributed to more people hitting the roads last year – as well as the carnage caused by the Sheppey Crossing 130-car pile-up. However, the miracle of that crash was no-one died and just eight people suffered serious injuries.

Some 200 received minor injuries which would not count in the context of these latest statistics.

David Brazier, Kent County

Council cabinet member for environment and transport, said: "While the long-term trend for killed and seriously-injured crashes is downward we are concerned about the increase recorded last year.

"Research shows that education and enforcement are the two areas that have the biggest impact in reducing these life-changing events.

"We have recently reviewed and developed our approach to further reduce crashes over the next six years – with the aim of lowering the numbers by 33 per cent and a 40 per cent reduction in child crashes by 2020."

Meanwhile, police are now stepping up patrols as part of its annual summer drink-driving crackdown. Especially during the upcoming FIFA World Cup.

Sergeant Hannah Brown: "Watch your speed, and drive to the conditions. Whether you are behind the wheel, on your bike or crossing the road on foot, ensure you stay alert and don't be distracted."

Deadline looms to register children for Kent Test spot

PARENTS wanting their child to sit the Kent Test next year can now put their name down for the exam, which can open up a route to a grammar school.

Registration is open until July 1 for any children starting Year Six in September.

They will then take the test on September 10 with the outcome determining their options when starting secondary school in 2015.

Roger Gough, Kent County Council cabinet member for education, said: "The format of the test this year has been altered to lighten the burden on schools and children and to help make it less coachable. The first test will be a multiple choice English and Maths paper and the second test will be a multiple choice reasoning paper."

See www.kent.gov.uk/ola for details of how to register.

Fresh appeal after victim, 60, left with fractured skull

POLICE have renewed an appeal for information following a vicious assault in Tunbridge Wells which left a 60-year-old man with a fractured skull.

The victim was found on the floor of a house in Dorking Road on May 26, by a friend.

He was suffering serious head injuries and had multiple fractures to the skull.

Detective Inspector Maxine

Martin said: "The victim is slowly recovering in hospital, but has suffered extensive head injuries and although we are not ruling out the possibility that he may have known his attacker, we are appealing to anyone with information to come forward."

A 35-year-old man from Tonbridge has been arrested and released on police bail until July 25.



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Blackmore is new Maidstone Tory party leader

CHRIS Garland has been replaced by Annabelle Blackmore as leader of the Conservative group on Maidstone Borough Council.

It follows a surge in support for Ukip during the recent local elections which saw the Tories lose their grip on the county town's corridors of power.

While still the dominant party, the council is hung. Cllr Blackmore, who has represented the ward of

Marden and Yalding since 2003, caused controversy when she moved 3,000 miles to Bermuda to be with her husband – who had secured a short-term job there – just weeks after being elected.

Long since returned, she replaced Cllr Garland who formally confirmed he was stepping down, due to work commitments, last weekend. The council leader was due to be elected this weekend.



REGAL: En route to France

County show bounces back as it secures a royal seal of approval for 2014

By **Jamie Weir**

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ORGANISERS of this year's Kent County Show have been boosted after the Duke of Kent confirmed he would offer the royal seal of approval to the event – while the county council has committed its support again by becoming a major sponsor.

It comes as the show prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary since it moved from Mote Park in Maidstone to the Kent Showground at Detling.

The duke has been the patron since 1975 and is no stranger to the event.

He will visit on the Friday of the three-day event and tour the site.

Meanwhile, after scaling back its involvement last year, Kent County Council has made a high profile return, which includes being one of the event's top tier sponsors.

Mark Lumsdon-Taylor, director of organisers the Kent County Agricultural Society, said: "KCC is back at this year's show and very welcome too.



SHOW: Organisers tickled pink

"It is so important that our county council is involved in what is the largest, and dare I say, by far the most important, event in the calendar."

The show – an annual showcase of local endeavour rooted deeply in the

county's agricultural roots – combines traditional livestock and fresh produce displays with exhibitions and showcases from local companies.

It experienced an horrendous show in 2012 when heavy rainfall meant it was forced to close its doors for much of the event, while many visitors were left stranded in swamped car parks.

But last year the weather improved and the crowds flocked back, leaving organisers with a far sunnier disposition.

Mr Lumsdon-Taylor added: "Certainly the show suffered as a result of very nasty weather in 2011 and 2012 and we lost money; however we have to look at the overall picture. Last year we enjoyed good weather and our many loyal friends returned in force and we benefited from many new visitors."

Advance ticket sales this year are already up 33 per cent on this time last year.

The Kent County Show runs across three days, from July 11 to 13 at the Kent Showground, Detling.

Games baton arrives en route to Glasgow

THOUSANDS of schoolchildren lined the streets on Thursday to welcome the Queen's Commonwealth baton to the county.

The baton has travelled around the world as part of the build-up to the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow at the end of July.

Crowds flocked to greet it in Tonbridge, where Dame Kelly Holmes joined the occasion, as well as Dartford, Herne Bay, Folkestone and Maidstone.

In addition to the double-gold winner from Hildenborough, other baton carriers included Sochi 2014 Winter Games gold medallist Lizzy Yarnold from Westerham.

It brought back memories of two years ago when there was an enormous response to the arrival of the Olympic flame as it made its progress around the country prior to the start of the London 2012 Games.

The baton, which includes a message from the Queen, will arrive in Glasgow in time for the Commonwealth Games which begin on July 23.

Fury over high levels of new city homes

CAMPAIGNERS fighting plans for more than 15,000 new homes in and around Canterbury have reacted with dismay after an update plan for development over the next 20 years revealed no cuts in the building plans.

More than 7,000 people responded during an initial consultation to the plan, first released last summer.

But a revised version published this week shows no dip in the 15,600 homes – including 4,000 homes planned for south of the city.

Senior planner at the Kent branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, Brian Lloyd, told KoS: "The major concerns we raised last year on the draft plan remain – the housing target is too high. The plan needs to adopt a strategy that is less damaging to the countryside."

But council leader John Gibbey said: "We believe this provides development in the most sustainable locations."

Comments are invited on the plan until July 18.

IPCC probe police in 'coma' investigation

THE Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) is to probe an incident involving Kent Police last December which resulted in a 38-year-old burglary suspect being left in a coma he has still to emerge from.

The investigation centres around police attending an emergency call in Gillingham. They found a suspected burglar restrained by residents.

Complaints have been made about events after police handcuffed him. The man, Denby Collins, ended up unresponsive in an ambulance. He remains in a coma at a London hospital.

IPCC commissioner Mary Cunneen said: "Our investigation will examine the use of force, including handcuffs, by the officers who attended the scene, the intelligence and information provided to the two initial attending officers and whether the arrest of Mr Collins was justifiable in the circumstances as they presented themselves.

"We will also look at the first aid provided."

agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

Solar farm plans to go on show at exhibition

A PUBLIC exhibition outlining plans for a solar farm near Iwade takes place on Thursday.

The 150MW solar park is proposed for Orchard Farm, on the outskirts of the town.

Residents will get to see the full details of the plans and have the chance to quiz representatives from GH Dean, owners of the farm who

are keen to diversify.

Oliver Doubleday, chief executive of GH Dean, said: "The site is poor quality agricultural land and difficult to farm due to previous mineral extraction. This solar project would bring a number of environmental benefits, including extensive wildflower planting to create a habitat-rich environment,



encouraging bees and other pollinators as well as small mammals."

The exhibition takes place at All Saints Church in Iwade between 2pm and 8pm on Thursday.

Your chance to discuss Pilgrims Hospice change

TWO meetings to discuss the future of the Pilgrims Hospice will take place in Ashford and Margate over the coming weeks.

It follows the announcement it intends to phase out inpatient beds at its Canterbury site – a move which has sparked major controversy (for full details turn to page 11).

On Monday there will be a meeting at the Queen's Hall at Margate's Winter Gardens. Doors open at 7pm with the event due to get under way at 7.30pm.

And on June 19, a Thursday, there will be another meeting at the Norton Knatchbull School in Hythe Road, Ashford. Again, starting at 7pm.

...also

Primark nears opening

WORK on a major new Primark store in the centre of Canterbury should be completed this week ahead of its opening on June 19.

The popular cut-price fashion store is sited on the former British Home Stores site, next to the Whitefriars shopping complex.

Celebrate Carers' Week

A NUMBER of special events will take place this week to mark Carers' Week.

Among those hosting events will be Deal-base Carers' Support which supports unpaid carers in the Canterbury, Dover and Thanet areas. For details, see www.carers-supportcdt.org.uk.

Jamie waits on decision

TV CHEF Jamie Oliver should learn this week if he has been given the green light to open a restaurant in Tunbridge Wells town centre.

A decision by the local council for the site next to the Beluga Bar is expected on Monday. It would be a trattoria.

Consultation deadline

ANYONE wishing to comment on a string of major proposals for the Abbey Court Community Special School in Rainham have until Friday to make their voice heard.

Plans include moving to a new site and increasing pupil numbers.

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ANN Barnes is rather getting used to having 'weeks to forget'. And this proved no different. As the fallout continues after Channel 4's Meet the Commissioner programme – a fly-on-the-wall documentary broadcast 10 days ago which followed the Police and Crime Commissioner as she toured the county – on Thursday she found herself hauled before the Kent and Medway Crime Panel: delaying her holiday to attend.

The panel's job is to scrutinise the commissioner's office. And it was fiercely critical of Mrs Barnes and her decision to appear on the show.

Having rejected all attempts by the media to speak to her before the panel appearance, speculation began to mount she would face a vote of no confidence, or simply announce she was to quit half-way through her elected term of office.

Mrs Barnes, however, clearly had other ideas.

Shortly after a near two-hour grilling, Mrs Barnes, who earns £85,000, sat down with Kent on Sunday to set the record straight.

"No, I didn't think about resigning," she insists.

"The people of Kent have put their trust in me to deliver on my manifesto promises – and I have already delivered on each one.

"Kent has got 20 more police officers and 60 more PCSOs [police community support officers] since I started, and I have invested £250,000 in the special constabulary.

"I commissioned the first independent report into crime recording figures, and Kent Police now records 97 per cent of crime which I think is the best in the land. There will also be a new Sexual Assault Referral Centre in the county at the end of the summer, which I have worked very hard to get up and running.

"I'm a very strong personality and I passionately believe in the role I am doing. The film didn't show the real Ann Barnes."

You can either admire her determination or see it as bull-headed. The idea to step down after another wave of negative headlines may not have crossed her mind, but it certainly crossed most other people's this week.

First there was the almost universally derided Meet the Commissioner documentary, in which she appeared unable to define her own job and was filmed taking her dogs into a meeting. She may have been the victim of unkind editing, but the question is



CRITICISED: Commissioner Ann Barnes and crime panel members Mike Hill (top) and Andrew Bowles

Bloodied but not yet beaten, PCC survives demands to step down

Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes fights on amid the fallout of Channel 4 documentary, reports [Sarah Linney...](#)

whether she should have agreed to take part in a programme which carried that risk in the first place.

"I think it could have been far more educational about the job," she told us, "but it did give a snapshot and talked about the funding difficulties.

"They did hundreds of hours of filming, and I don't think it reflected me and the work that I do, but I made the decision to do it.

"I spent a lot of time thinking about whether to do it. I spoke at length with the producers to see what they wanted out of it, and I researched the work of the company – and Channel 4

is a reputable broadcaster. But hindsight is a wonderful thing.

"I do know my job. I have spent 15 years in the policing world. The panel scrutinise my work on a regular basis and they know how effective I am."

While the nation collectively smirked at her portrayal in the programme, just a few days later allegations emerged over a relationship between her new youth commissioner, 20-year-old Kerry Boyd, and a married former Conservative county councillor, Robert Burgess, 50.

The Sun newspaper said the two had been 'close'. Despite efforts to

speak to Miss Boyd or Mr Burgess this week, neither returned our calls. What muddled the waters was that Mr Burgess had provided a reference for Miss Boyd when she took the job.

For Mrs Barnes, the role of the youth commissioner may soon become one which carries too high a price.

She may continue to be determined to fill the position, but it has so far done little other than bring embarrassment to her.

Her first recruit, Paris Brown, 17, from Sheppey, was last year proudly paraded around the newsrooms and TV studios of the national media –

only for one of the them to discover comments on her Twitter account which hinted at racism and underage drinking. She lasted little more than a week.

Kerry Boyd was seen as a safer pair of hands. Already active in her community, the 20-year-old from Margate had gone about her role quietly – until this week. Once again, the public profile of the role is exposing a young woman to levels of intrusion which many will feel is unfair for Mrs Barnes to impose. Especially in a job which lasts just one year and pays just £15,000.

Mrs Barnes steadfastly refused to make any comment whatsoever on Miss Boyd. Although it was confirmed the youth commissioner would be scaling back her work while the spotlight remained focused on her.

A short statement, posted on Mrs Barnes' website said simply: "We are supporting Kerry at this difficult time for her. We are concerned that Kerry did not feel able to disclose the full extent of her personal circumstances earlier but as enquiries are taking place it would be inappropriate for us to comment further.

"As part of our support for Kerry she is not undertaking any public engagements for the time being."

For now, it seems, Mrs Barnes is determined to remain in her job.

The problem she faces is to lose the respect and confidence of officers and civilian staff in the force would arguably make her job untenable.

Ian Pointon, head of the Kent Police Federation, which represents rank and file officers, appeared to suggest that tipping point had not yet been reached.

He explained: "We have tried to stay out of the politics of this. Mrs Barnes' position is a matter for her and the people of Kent.

"My concern was about the potential reputational damage to Kent Police by association. But I'm hopeful people have made that distinction; although it is still embarrassing for Kent Police. There may have been some damage to the force, but most was to Ann Barnes herself.

"She was advised by the force not to take part – it was always going to end in disaster.

"In parts she is a victim of creative editing, but I think she has to take it on the chin. I welcomed her apology before the panel and think she has probably gone further than many people would. In public life you don't often see people taking responsibility or apologising."

'This is the first time you have show some humility'

HELD at County Hall, Thursday's meeting was eagerly anticipated.

Ann Barnes had kept a low profile since the Channel 4 show aired and so these were her first public comments on the headlines which had engulfed her office.

Webcast as well, it proved an engaging spectacle. Mrs Barnes, who seemed to continue the hapless persona depicted in the Channel 4 show by revealing she had not brought her glasses into the chamber and could not, therefore, identify many of the Kent and Medway Crime Panel members which sat before her, was relentlessly quizzed over aspects of the show.

"The documentary has attracted a

torrent of comment, some of it critical and some of it highly critical," panel chairman Mike Hill told her at the start of the meeting.

"It has clearly been a public relations disaster. Fly-on-the-wall documentaries are notoriously dangerous. Why on earth did you do it, and why did you cede editorial control?"

Mrs Barnes replied with an apology, which she said was particularly aimed at "the hard working members of Kent Police".

"It was never my intention to upset them, or to draw adverse publicity to their excellent work," she said.

"I took part in the documentary with the best of intentions. My only

aim was to help people understand the role of a police and crime commissioner. I am truly sorry.

"Those of you who know me know I do my job and I will continue to do my job, but there will be a change of emphasis and I will be looking at my approach to engagement."

Mrs Barnes, it is fair to say, has collected opponents to both her role and that of her office at a rate of knots at times. Having been elected as an 'independent' candidate in November 2012, her high profile actions have resulted in opposition across the major political parties.

And that was all too apparent when she appeared before the panel. Panel member Annabelle Black-

more, this week appointed leader of the Conservative group on Maidstone Borough Council, told the commissioner: "We have had times when you have come to the panel and almost treated us with contempt.

"You have spoken to us rather than with us and you have not provided information on a timely basis. I think this is the first time you have shown some humility."

If Andrew Bowles, Swale's Conservative leader, was attempting to moderate Cllr Blackmore's remarks, he only made the situation worse.

"I have never felt that you have treated me with contempt. I might have used the word condescension," he said.

"But we have had misjudgment followed by misjudgment followed by misjudgment. And nothing I have heard this morning gives me any optimism that we won't have further misjudgment.

"I think you have to go away and ask yourself if you really are the right person – if you are part of the solution, or part of the problem?"

Mike Hill, a Conservative county councillor who chaired the panel, told Mrs Barnes that she must "change her style" and report back to the panel in July on how she was going to do that. Quite what that means will be something for Mrs Barnes to consider as she embarks on her delayed holiday.

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Controversial hospice closure boss says move will boost care

THE decision to close inpatient beds at the Pilgrims Hospice in Canterbury may be hugely controversial – but it is the right thing to do, the man heading the charity told KoS this week.

The popular charity currently runs sites in Ashford, Canterbury and Margate.

But citing increasing debts, it announced last month it would be removing beds from its city building.

It has sparked fury among many who have had loved ones use the service and amid fears a proposed switch to care at home will lessen the quality of care.

Tempers boiled over recently when hundreds of people stood up and stormed out of a meeting held to discuss the closure plans.

But chief executive Steve Auty insists the short-term pain will bring long-term gain to the organisation and its financial stability.

Meeting KoS this week, he said the organisation needs to do more to

There has been an emotional and angry response to Pilgrims Hospice's decision to end inpatient care in Canterbury but its chief executive Steve Auty claims the change will help meet the rising demand for 'in-home' care and will improve the end of life care it offers, [Sarah Linney](#) investigates...

reach people who at the moment aren't getting its help – and that the inpatient beds need to be closed so the money can be used elsewhere.

The hospice, which receives a quarter of its funding from the NHS, is running at a £1 million-a-year deficit, which is widely believed to be the reason behind the closures.

But Mr Auty says that even if he was handed a £1m cheque he would still go ahead with the plans.

Speaking to KoS in his light, airy office at the hospice in London Road, he talks slowly; careful with the words and phrases he uses about a

topic which is fast becoming a major community issue.

"Seventy per cent of people want to die at home, and less than half of them achieve it," Mr Auty said.

"Two thirds of people who die in east Kent don't access our services and we have to do more for them directly.

"The challenge we have to take up is improving end of life care, but we are a small charity and we can't deal with everyone in east Kent who dies, so we need to help develop other healthcare providers. Part of our remit is about education and development."

The hospice plans to replace its inpatient beds in Canterbury with hospice-supported beds in the Kent and Canterbury Hospital and within care homes, run in partnership between the hospice and those organisations.

Three beds at the London Road site will close this autumn and three next year, but the remaining ten will remain until Pilgrims beds elsewhere are open – although it is not clear how many Pilgrims beds there will be.

Opponents of the proposals say this will mean the caring, gentle atmosphere of the hospice, which many credit with transforming their loved

ones' last days and even bringing about an improvement in their condition, is lost.

They also say that everyone will, of course, express a wish to die at home when they are well, but that in practice, families and patients often find themselves unable to cope without round the clock specialist care when illness strikes.

But Mr Auty said the Pilgrims beds should be in a separate area from the main hospital wards, allowing the hospice atmosphere to be conserved.

"If you go to other hospices within hospitals, they have the same oasis of peace and calm that we have here," he said.

"A proper area that replicates the atmosphere here would be our aspiration.

"Pilgrims staff would be part of the shifts and there would be some Pilgrims input 24 hours a day.

"The NHS might not be perfect but

I don't think it is as black as it is painted by some people. My own experience has been that some very good care is delivered."

No beds are closing at Ashford or Thanet and Mr Auty confirmed that there were no plans to do so.

Patients from the Canterbury area will be able to receive inpatient care at either Ashford or Thanet and the hospice has said it will help with travel and accommodation costs for patients and their families.

Mr Auty said: "Care has moved on over time and we have numerous examples of when the Hospice at Home team [which provides a flexible in-home service] have successfully cared for people.

"It is not a case of either/or.

"We need both community care and inpatient care so we can cope with people's preferences. We have the capacity to add six beds at Ashford, making the total 22, and we have done that in the past.

"Not everyone can live next to a hospice. People who are cared for in the Ashford hospice may come from Lydd or New Romney, and they have to make the journey. Some people are advantaged by where they live."

So if the decision was purely about doing the best thing for patients, why has the hospice mentioned money at all?

Mr Auty says it is a case of using the resources available to provide the best care possible.

"It is partially about the constraints of money," he said.

"It's about changing to meet the future demand, which is going to be more people wanting to die at home,

so we have to shift our resources.

"This enables us to run on a balanced budget into the future. The accounts are public and state quite clearly what the position is."

The Canterbury centre has been chosen for the bed closures because it is the oldest of the three buildings and was, the hospice said, "becoming unsuitable for providing high standards of healthcare".

The building will, however, still be open for day care, education and training but Mr Auty said unequivocally that closing the inpatient beds would save the £1 million the hospice needs to save each year.

"By not operating the inpatient unit, and working in partnership instead, we are not carrying the same overheads," he said.

"It's a bit like having an old car. At some stage you find you are putting too much money into it. To build a new hospice would cost £11m to £20m, which is an awfully big sum to be putting into bricks and mortar."

The emotions around the closure bubbled over when a public meeting was held to discuss the closure at the nearby Canterbury Academy.

Some 500 people turned up to pack the hall which would see tempers fray amid frustration over the closure plans.

More than one speaker at last Friday's meeting made the point that if the hospice needed money, the public would be only too willing to raise it.

Says Mr Auty: "The demand that I have talked about is really important. If we had more money, we would be putting that money into delivering the care in different settings.

"We have got to reach out and take

“ It's about changing to meet the future demand, which is going to be more people wanting to die at home, so we have to shift our resources. ”

Steve Auty,

On reallocating hospice funds

more care to more people, and recognise that more needs to be done in the community. The money needs to go where it can be best used.

"I think there is a lack of understanding of what we do now. We offer day care, outreach care, counselling, physiotherapy and clinics; most people tend to focus on the inpatient unit, but the bulk is elsewhere even today."

He said that the trend was being reflected nationally.

"A number of hospices have partnership arrangements with the NHS, including the Walsgrave Hospital in Coventry and Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice," Mr Auty added.

He said the outreach centres in Dover, Deal, Herne Bay, Faversham and Folkestone, where people can be seen by nurses and meet other patients, will also continue and may expand.

But he confirmed respite care – when the hospice takes in patients temporarily so carers can have a holiday – would cease at all three sites.

"We currently care for a relatively small number of people and I don't believe it's a fair use of our resources," he explained.

"Respite care is available from other providers in east Kent. But we will always take people into the hospice in a crisis, if there is a carer breakdown."

There have been suggestions the proposals would damage fundraising for the hospice because of the strength of opposition and Mr Auty admitted this was a concern.

"I don't want our patients to be suffering, and I would urge people who have always supported us to continue to support us," he said.

"We have cared for lots of people over many years and we are still going to be delivering high quality care to lots of people. In any one day, there are nigh on 600 patients on the Canterbury caseload.

"The most important thing is for us to continue to deliver good quality care, so if you really believe in the cause then get behind it."

The trust will now hold meetings in Ashford and Thanet to discuss the proposed changes and answer questions, as well as smaller meetings with councillors, healthcare professionals and other interested parties.

"The trustees will then reflect on what they hear," Mr Auty said.

"We always anticipated that there would be a strong reaction. A lot of people have a long-standing affiliation to the Canterbury site.

"But it's not all negative. A number of people understand what we are trying to do. The assessment is how much support there is versus how much opposition there is, and that has to be across the whole of east Kent.

"We are trying to say to people, here's a new way of doing something, here's a vision for the future."

For details on when the public meetings in Ashford and Margate take place turn to page 7.



“ The challenge we have to take up is improving end of life care, but we are a small charity and we can't deal with everyone in east Kent who dies... ”

Steve Auty,
Pilgrims Hospice

EMOTIONS RUN HIGH AT MEETING ON CANTERBURY HOSPICE'S FUTURE

ANGER, frustration and sadness were the dominant emotions at a public meeting on the future of the hospice which ended in a mass walkout.

The main hall at Canterbury Academy was full to its 500 capacity for the meeting last Friday evening to discuss the planned bed closures – and opposition to the proposals was almost universal.

Some speakers were almost in tears as they told of the loss of loved ones who had been cared for in the hospice, their last days transformed and their pain eased by its gentle ministrations.

And when, near the end of the meeting, chairman of the board of trustees Dr Richard Morey said it had been "predominantly an opportunity to explain our views", and not a consultation, about three quarters of those present left in fury.

The hospice had never said the meeting was a consultation, but it does receive 25 per cent of its funding from the NHS, and relies on the goodwill of donors.

The meeting was chaired by Canterbury MP Julian Brazier, whose words at the start – "This is a charity. The trustees are not paid; they give up their time to make this happen" – did nothing to quell the level of feeling. Nor did an apology from Dr Morey.

"I would like to say sorry for the poor way in which we have handled communications and the upset, hurt and damage that we have caused many people, particularly in the Canterbury area," he told the meeting.

When, shortly afterwards, a radiographer stood up and asked "who wants this to happen?", no hands were raised.

When she continued, "who doesn't?", the show of hands was almost universal.

David Denne, who has been a fundraiser for

the hospice for 17 years, said his reaction to the news was "total disbelief and shock".

"I strongly feel that this could damage fundraising," he added.

Dr Morey added: "The hospice is not bricks and mortar. The hospice is a philosophy. Ten per cent of people die in the hospice at the moment, and 40 per cent die in hospital. People don't die particularly well in hospitals or care homes right now, but they do die well in our beds.

"We need to influence the care in the hospital and in care homes, and by putting our staff there, we can hopefully educate the hospital staff and the care staff to look after people so much better."

Many pointed out that caring for patients at home is often not possible because of the severity of their condition, no matter how desperately families want to do it.

Retired nurse Peggy Pryer, who is the secretary of the campaign group CHEK (Concern for Healthcare in East Kent), told of a similar experience.

When her husband Martin died in the hospice in 2005 after suffering from heart failure and renal failure, keeping him at home had become impossible even with four family members trying to look after him.

"We could not manage him. We couldn't move him and his pain wasn't under control. He was screaming in agony," Mrs Pryer told KoS after the meeting.

"He went into the hospice and his last few days were spent in a dignified manner. It's all very well saying the majority of people want to die at home. People change their minds. And it's such a relief when they do go into the hospice because then you can become the family again, not the carers.

"They are taking away the choice from patients of where to end their days."





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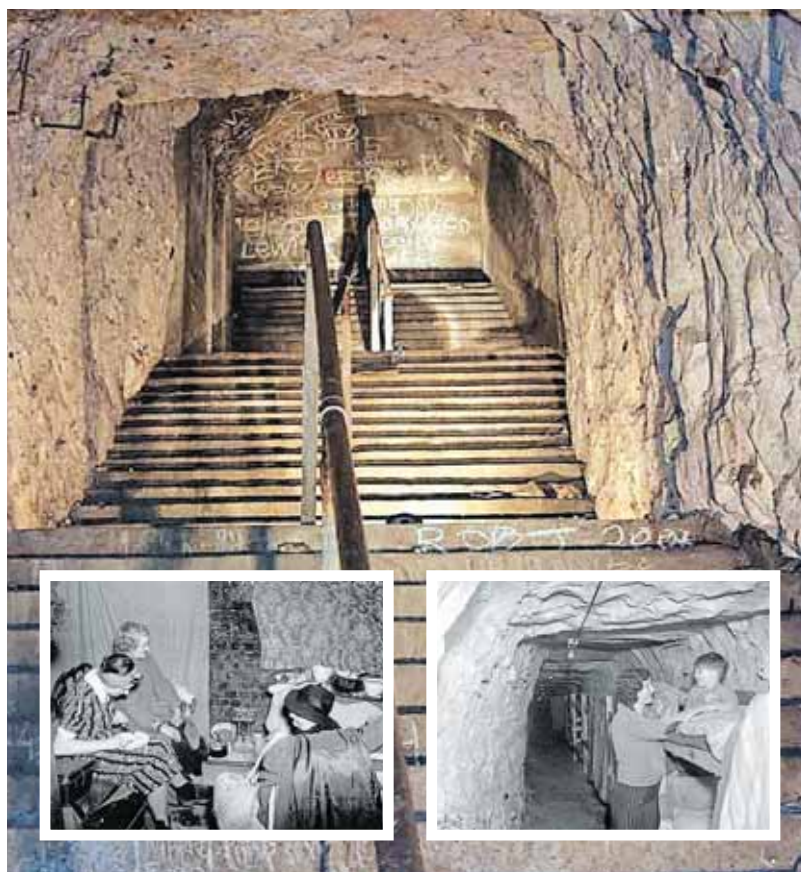
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Secret maze of war tunnels all set to re-open

As a remarkable labyrinth of hidden tunnels
prepares to re-open to the public for the first time
in 70 years, **Chris Murphy** takes a look back at the
history of a forgotten underground network...

THE date of August 24, 1940, is one
etched into Ramsgate's history; as the
town cowered under the first deadly
aerial attack by German forces.

The Luftwaffe's bomb attack would
become known as the 'murder raid' – leaving 27
people dead, 60 hurt, 80 homes flattened and
1,000 more damaged.

The Junkers Ju88 aircraft had wanted to at-
tack Manston airfield – then a key RAF site. But
after the defences repelled their efforts they
turned back towards the Channel.

Determined not to return fully-loaded with
their deadly arsenal, they emptied their bomb
bays over the town; some 500 bombs raining
down in the space of just three minutes.

It scarred the landscape, but the death toll
could have been so much worse had it not been
for a remarkable labyrinth of secret tunnels be-
neath the town itself.

Built as a potential shelter amid the growing

European political crisis leading up to the Sec-
ond World War, the complex would become
known simply as the Ramsgate Tunnels.

The network almost certainly saved the lives
of hundreds – if not thousands – of those who
lived in the seaside town.

The tunnels themselves extend for some three
and a half miles and, in total, they could provide
shelter for 26,000 people. Even Winston
Churchill was once forced to take cover in the
mini-town which existed there after an air-raid
interrupted a tour of Ramsgate.

Marjorie Woodward was just 17
when she took cover in the tunnels
for the first time. She remembers,
70 years later, how many people in
the town became to rely heavily on the tunnels.

She said: "People went in there for various
reasons such as not being able to live in their
home or were scared of the war or just plain

frightened.

"Some didn't want to leave the tunnel, so we called it tunnelitis."

Locals still remembered being bombed during the First World War by Zeppelins and then sea planes. In one raid, in March 1916, several children died on their way to Sunday School.

Some 100 Northumberland Fusiliers dug numerous shelters near schools within days, showing the possibilities for future generations. There was no desire of any repeat.

So when war threatened once again there was a huge demand for extra protection.

It was down to Arthur Kempe, the town's mayor, to get Ramsgate's deep shelter system done. Not that it was easy to secure the green light.

The Government was not only worried they would undermine morale, but feared other towns would demand their own monster bomb shelters too.

Local Tory MP, Captain Harold Balfour, was pals with air raid minister Sir John Anderson, the man who lent his name to the famed 'Anderson' garden air-raid shelters.

The project was agreed in March 1939 and by June, the first section was complete; the Duke of Kent performed the opening.

It took a mere nine months for an army of men with picks and shovels to bore through more than two miles of chalk to link with a disused railway tunnel that once took tourist-laden trains from the mainline station to the beach.

Perhaps the most impressive feature was that the tunnels were built on a one-in-600 gradient, commencing at the West Cliff entrance three feet above high water level.

This kept the tunnels above the natural water table and as the system was continually rising it formed a natural flue effect and was therefore self-ventilating.

The tunnels were constructed under public highways which not only made planning easier, but also had the effect of using the road surface as a "detonating slab" for bombs and shells which would reduce the effect of a direct hit.

In late 1940, a census revealed 957 people in 324 families were living in the former railway tunnel from Ramsgate seafront to Broadstairs.

Entrepreneurial locals cashed in – one sold toiletries from a tray, a barber shop was established and canteens were planned.

Chairs at first were commonplace, but beds and other furniture soon arrived along with cherished belongings locals didn't want to risk to an air raid.

House numbers or names were hung on some of these dwellings which were the ultimate in open planning.

Children could play – what child wouldn't want miles of underground tunnel to explore?

The timing was impeccable. As war started 3,000 children were sent away to the Midlands, but many quickly returned, clearly homesick.

The first blitz of the war happened in their backyard, but the tunnels played their part in keeping families safe.

When peace finally arrived in 1945 the tunnels, having done their job, were sealed.

And sealed they remained for the next 70 years.

The disused tunnels, 60 feet under Ramsgate, became the responsibility of Thanet District Council.

It was realised something needed to be done to protect this astonishing feat of engineering which cost a mere £40,000 to create, and in stepped another man of vision, Phil Spain.

A tourist attraction was the most obvious use and work on the project started.

A Big Lottery grant of £53,000 was achieved by Ramsgate Town Council for feasibility work.

Thanet council provided £51,000 of funding to the Ramsgate Regeneration Heritage Trust (RRHT) for safety equipment, services, security and asbestos removal.

The terms of a lease were finalised for RRHT to operate 'Tunnel Explorer' tours which start this summer.

RRHT have recently secured a further grant from Heritage Lottery Fund for £84,000.

Fittingly, it was the current Duke of Kent who braved the elements at the end of last month to officially re-open the tunnels. He retraced the steps of his father, who had carried out the same ceremony 75 years before.

Mr Spain's grandfather, Owen, pretty much moved in to the tunnels and later wrote a book on the experience.

Now Mr Spain, a former police officer, has brought them back to life.

And last weekend locals got a chance to re-enter the tunnels – albeit just a few hundred yards of them – ahead of the full opening later this month.

As Mr Spain explains, they hold a remarkable place in the town's history: "There was enough room to get everyone in the whole town down here, and more. It's vital they are kept open – they are part of our history."

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James Beeny, 28, who formed the six-piece band, composed the 'stock opera' with 23-year-old fellow band

member Gina Georgio and will be performing at the concert, joined by a cast of 25 young men and women from all over Kent and Sussex.

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Usual terms and conditions apply. Please note, if you enter after the closing deadline of June 17, 2014, your entry will not be valid, but you still may be charged. SMS services are provided by BBA Digital Helpline telephone 0844 3572403.

Alternatively, enter by post to Leeds Castle Competition, Archant KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SS.

For more information and to buy tickets, visit www.heritage-events.co.uk or phone 0845 652 62 62.

■ The Open Air Classical Concert is at Leeds Castle (ME17 1RG) on Saturday, July 12. Tickets are checked in from 3pm; the concert site opens at 4pm and finishes at 10.30pm.

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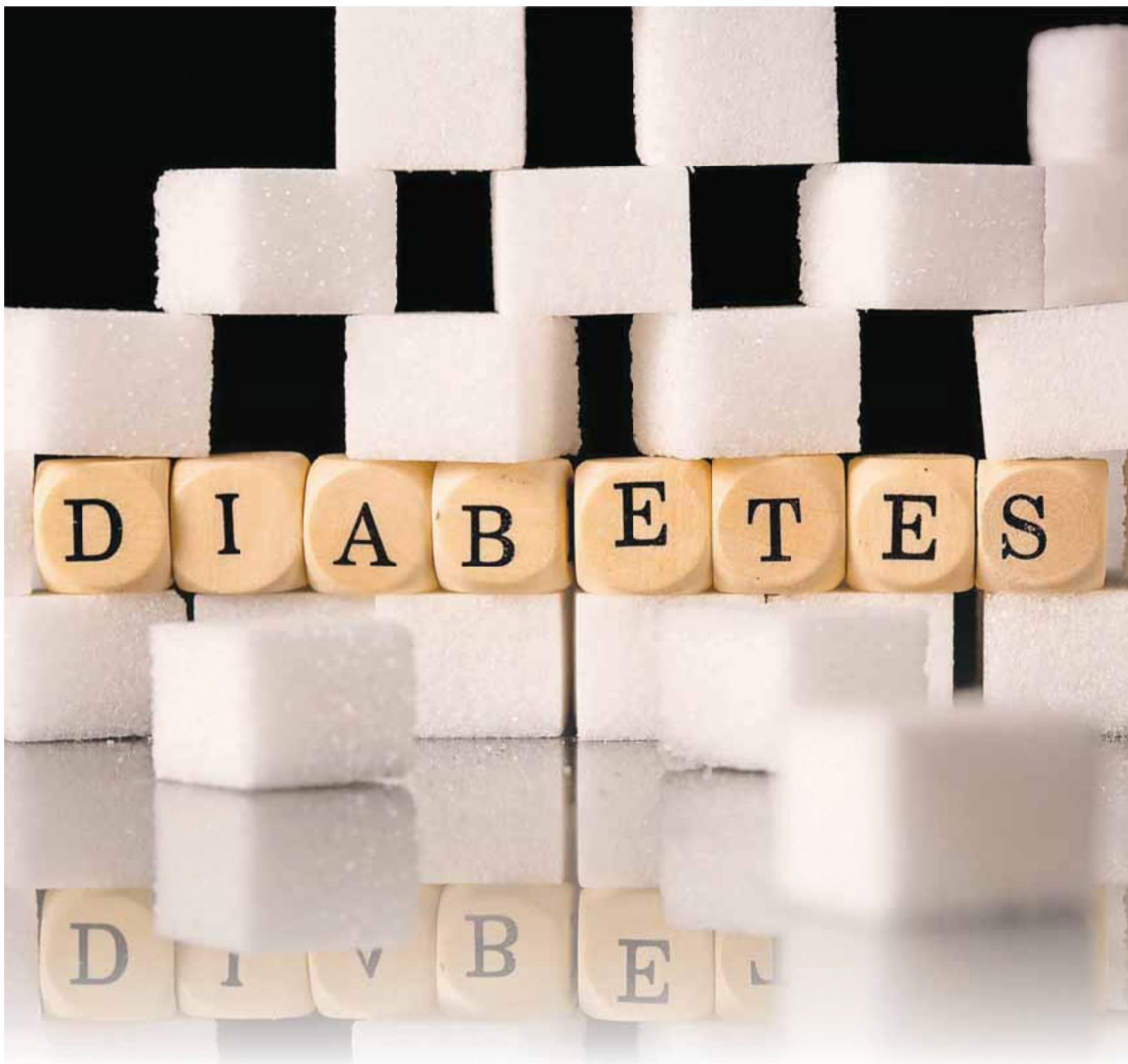
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Condition can ruin lives but for so many it need not be that way

The Paula Carr Trust says diabetes is controllable and raising awareness of the symptoms could save lives and the NHS billions... **Sarah Linney** reports

kentnews.co.uk kent-life.co.uk

I WAS 18 and at university when a friend of mine was diagnosed with diabetes.

When he went to the doctor because he had been suffering from recurrent headaches, none of us were too worried. Until the doctor told him that his blood sugar was so

spectacularly high he needed immediate medical attention.

I can remember my horror, and my surprise, as I wondered why it had happened and what it would mean. But 15 years on, he is fine – the picture of health and living a perfectly normal life.

By being diagnosed and then treating the illness and making the necessary lifestyle changes, diabetes can be controlled for many.

This story is one that is told all over the country, every day, everywhere.

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NTW

Week ending June 8, 2014 **19**

There are 3.2 million people with diabetes in the UK – 85,000 of them in Kent.

And the county is fortunate enough to have its own diabetes charity, the Paula Carr Trust, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

The trust, which is entirely reliant on donations, has spent more than £3 million over the years improving care for people with diabetes across the county.

"It has just grown and grown and grown," chairman Gary Fagg said.

"It's a team effort. We have four fantastically dedicated trustees and an administrator, Helen Elford, who does a great job."

Diabetes occurs when the body cannot remove excess sugar from the blood.

In most people, the pancreas produces a hormone called insulin which regulates blood-sugar levels, but in diabetic people either not



INFORMING SUFFERERS: Paula Carr Diabetes Trust chairman Gary Fagg with its patron Countess Mountbatten

“ People shouldn’t be frightened of diabetes. The majority of people who control their sugar intake live a perfectly good, healthy, normal life ”

Gary Fagg, chairman of Paula Carr Diabetes Trust

enough insulin is produced (what is known as ‘type 2’ diabetes), or it fails to produce any at all – ‘type 1’.

Type 2 is more easily treatable – frequently through diet and lifestyle changes as well as with medicine.

Type 1 is more complicated, requiring the sufferer to inject themselves with insulin.

The perils of that can be that blood-sugar levels become too low – and that can put the patient in danger of

slipping into a coma. These hypoglycaemic attacks, or ‘hypos’, can be fatal (see box-off about Paula Carr).

However, treatment is essential. Left unmanaged, high blood-sugar levels can damage organs, nerves and blood vessels, leading to heart disease, strokes, blindness, kidney disease and foot problems necessitating amputation.

The NHS spends about 10 per cent of its budget – some £10 billion – on diabetes, a figure expected to rise in the coming years. Of this, about £8 billion is spent treating serious but avoidable complications.

It is this message, says Mr Fagg, that needs to be got across – that treated, the condition is highly controllable... but, untreated, it is very serious.

"People shouldn't be frightened of

diabetes. The majority of people who control their sugar intake live a perfectly good, healthy, normal life," he stressed.

"My dad had diabetes for 60 years, had no major problems and lived till he was 87. It's very manageable.

"But diabetes is also the biggest cause of blindness and amputation in the western world, and a major cause of dialysis, stroke and heart disease.

"Patients need to go to the clinics and have their blood sugar tested and their eyes screened."

If they do not, it might be because they are not aware of the seriousness of their condition, Mr Fagg said.

He says more investment is needed to provide more NHS staff, more training and more frequent appointments for patients to check their treatment is working properly.

"Patients often don't have enough knowledge to understand the ramifications of not attending their appointments," he said.

"We need to tell people what it all means and get them to understand.

"The professionals are doing the best they can, but there are not enough resources. We need to prevent rather than cure."

The trust is probably best known for its retinal screening service. Launched in 1994, it monitors diabetics each year to check their eyesight is not being damaged.

Its vans are frequently spotted outside surgeries offering the ability, in many cases, to conduct examination of the eyes from inside the often modest-looking vehicle.

The tests themselves are relatively painless. Eye-drops dilate the pupils

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and photographs are then taken of the blood vessels behind the eye. For most, the only discomfort comes from having to wait several hours for their pupils to return to normal, which can mean sunlight becomes unusually dazzling.

Diabetes can cause damage to the blood vessels in the eyes; this is known as retinopathy.

It is caused by the delicate vessels becoming clogged due to excess sugar in the blood stream. They, in turn, can bleed, which, if untreated, can lead to blindness, especially as patients often have no warning symptoms.

The vital annual test takes pictures of the eyes and picks up any signs of bleeding. This happens to about a sixth of patients, who are then referred to an ophthalmologist for treatment.

The most frequent treatment for bleeds is laser surgery through the NHS – a treatment that is uncomfortable more than painful.

The Paula Carr service offers a vital early-warning system and is undoubtedly responsible for saving the sight of many thousands of people.

As well as eight screening centres, the trust's screening vans travel around the county, meaning about 500 patients a day can be seen.

The trust also funds training for GPs and diabetes nurses and helps them trial new equipment, runs education days for patients and pays for families and children to go on Diabetes UK weekends where they can learn more about the condition and meet others in the same boat.

It also buys equipment that the



RETINAL SCREENING: The trust's vans are a familiar sight on our roads

NHS cannot, such as MIST machines that help leg ulcers to heal and sensors that work with insulin pumps and turn the supply off if blood glucose is too low.

The trust's patron is Countess Mountbatten of Burma and its main centre at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford was opened in 1992 by Diana, Princess of Wales.

The centre is home to all the hospital's diabetes consultants and nurses,

including a children's team and a podiatrist. It also houses the retinal screening lab and a kitchen where patients can work with a dietician to learn about managing their diet. There are further centres in Maidstone and Margate.

The trust also helps national charity Diabetes UK to fund and set up support groups. So far there are groups in the Ashford, Canterbury, Maidstone, Medway, Thanet and Tun-

“Diabetes is the biggest cause of blindness and amputation in western world, and a major cause of dialysis, stroke and heart disease”

Gary Fagg,

On ignoring the signs of diabetes

bridge Wells areas, while a new group for the Folkestone and Dover area is planned for the autumn.

“We aim to have groups all over Kent,” said Mr Fagg, who specialised in diabetes and heart disease during his career as a research chemist in the pharmaceutical industry.

“One key thing these groups do is uncover people who don't generally come to their appointments, don't understand their condition and don't know what can go wrong.”

“We want patients to be able to communicate with each other and increase their knowledge. We have got to get people educated about lifestyle changes, diet and exercise.”

In addition to the care they receive from the NHS, people still need to know how to manage their condition in between appointments, explained Dr Geoff Burrell, the chairman of the new support group.

“You are on your own between vis-

its, trying to balance two big things – insulin and carbohydrates. There is a lot of variability and a small difference can have a very big effect on your health,” he said.

“Some patients don't know what they should do when they have a hypo, or what an HbA1c measurement is [it gives an overall picture of your average blood-sugar levels over a few weeks and is more accurate than the traditional ‘pin-prick’ blood tests of old].

“The dietary side of it is really key. Nobody really understands how it works and it can still be difficult to control. There is no decent way of continuously measuring blood sugar.”

Mr Fagg, who has been chairman of the trust for eight years, says the charity is full of plans to mark its 25th anniversary.

It launched a new website earlier this year and is also funding a diabetes project manager for the NHS in east Kent to help the hospital trust and GPs work more closely together.

The plan is for hospital consultants to hold diabetes clinics in GP surgeries at less cost to the primary care trust than automatic hospital referrals.

“This is my chance to give something back,” Mr Fagg says of his role.


“When we first started the screening, we didn't know how long it would go on. I'm proud of what we have done – very proud of the whole thing.”

■ To find out more about the Paula Carr Trust and diabetes, visit www.paulacarrdiabetestrust.co.uk, call 01233 651844, or email office@paulacarrdiabetestrust.co.uk.

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Remembering the schoolgirl who gave her name to charity

By Sarah Linney

sarah.linney@archant.co.uk

HAPPY, popular Paula Carr would have been so proud of the lifesaving work the trust has done in her name, her family say.

Paula was born in Ashford in 1975, the youngest of Bill and Janet Carr's three children, and was diagnosed with diabetes in 1984.

She was a pupil at Willesborough Infant School and Willesborough Junior School before starting at the North School in 1986.

But tragedy struck two years later when Paula died in her sleep after suffering a severe drop in blood sugar, known as a hypoglycaemic episode.

'Hypos' are common in diabetics and are usually mild and easily remedied (often by eating something sugary), but occasionally they can be severe enough to be fatal, particularly at night.

"Paula was very lively. Everyone liked her and she got on with everyone," said Mrs Carr, who lives in Harvey Road, Willesborough.

"She was really into music and dancing and she liked Five Star. She wasn't a problem at all – she



WATCHING FOR PROBLEMS: Paula Carr staff examine eye images (left) and a diabetic retinal image

was a really good girl."

The trust was started by Ashford's then mayor John Simpson, who was himself diabetic, together with national charity Diabetes UK.

Cllr Simpson's wife Imi worked with Mrs Carr on the William

Harvey Hospital's maternity ward, where Mrs Carr was an auxiliary nurse, and Cllr Simpson approached the family and asked if he could name the trust after their daughter. The Carrs readily agreed.

"I was all for it. Anything that

could help other children, even though we couldn't help Paula," Mrs Carr said.

"I didn't realise it would amount to so much. At first we were just trying to provide the basics, things like glucose meters for children so

they wouldn't have to pay for them.

"But so many people got involved and all of a sudden they were talking about building a centre. It sort of exploded and everyone joined in. I couldn't believe it.

"The eye-screening has been marvellous and has helped so many people."

Bill Carr, 64, a former contract manager at Stewart Fraser, and 59-year-old Janet Carr have been involved with the trust throughout its lifetime and Mrs Carr says her daughter would have loved the legacy she left.

"She would have been well up for it. She loved the limelight," said Mrs Carr, who also worked as a receptionist at the hospital's maxillofacial unit.

"The injections she needed for her diabetes didn't bother her. She used to enjoy doing them in front of people."

Mrs Carr added: "Thanks to the trust, Paula's memory will go on and on. My grandchildren ask if we are famous because the trust is named after her and they feel as if they knew her because of it.

"I would like to thank everyone who has been involved for making things happen."

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DIABETES FACTS:

■ Every four minutes, someone in the UK is diagnosed with diabetes. An estimated 630,000 people are unaware that they have the condition.

■ There are two kinds of diabetes: type 1 and type 2. Ninety per cent of sufferers have type 2 diabetes. Type 1, where the body is unable to produce insulin, usually starts before the age of 40, often in childhood. People with type 1 diabetes need daily insulin injections. Type 2, where the body loses the ability to produce sufficient insulin, or can no longer properly use the insulin it produces, usually starts after the age of 40, though it is increasingly appearing in younger people. It is more common in people who are medically overweight.

■ Lifestyle changes are often the key to preventing and managing type 2 diabetes, including reducing the amount of sugar in your diet, losing weight, taking more exercise and not smoking. Some people will need medication, too.

■ The telltale symptoms of diabetes are excessive thirst, frequent urination, feeling very tired and unexplained weight loss. Blurred vision and slow healing of cuts and wounds are also pointers.

■ Symptoms usually develop rapidly and obviously with type 1 diabetes, often within weeks. With type 2, they are often less evident, developing slowly over a number of years.

■ In the last few years, it has become possible for some patients prone to severe 'hypos' to have a transplant of some cells in the pancreas, where insulin is produced. This lessens the severity of their diabetes but does not cure it.

■ The UK pioneered the world's first government-funded transplant programme of this type in 2008, and to date about 65 people in this country have been given the therapy.



'INVALUABLE' was the verdict from one Kent GP on the work that the Paula Carr Trust does.

James Sharp, a GP at New Hayesbank Surgery in Kennington, Ashford, is himself a sufferer of type 1 diabetes and has used the trust's services in a personal capacity.

"I do quite a lot of diabetic work in the

A medical view

practice, and in terms of service to patients and treatment the trust has been invaluable," Dr Sharp said.

"We do have a good record with diabetes care and we have a lot to thank

them for, especially Gary Fagg.

"There would be a diabetes service without the trust, but because they are a charity they are able to fund-raise independently in ways that the hospital trust cannot. They are able to focus on the patients without having the other considerations that a hospital trust does, such as budgets."

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Dover Castle's dark deception played key role in D-Day plans

As we continue this weekend to mark the 70th anniversary of the Normandy landings, **Maria Chiorando** reports on our county's vital role



LANDINGS: Soldiers begin their advance on the French coast as part of D-Day. Left: Dover Castle's war tunnels (courtesy of English Heritage).



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IT WAS one of the most elaborate of deceptions: designed to fool the Nazi forces at a key point of the Second World War.

As the Allies prepared a major invasion on France to push back the German frontline, General Montgomery fine-tuned the landing of tens of thousands of troops onto the Normandy beaches.

But in the weeks leading up to the attack, a key part of the operation involved Kent – and in particular the strategic location of Dover.

There a false trail would be left to confuse German intelligence and give the impression the Allied invasion would come at Calais – the shortest crossing and closest point to the British mainland.

They fooled their enemy by setting up fake camps in Dover, complete with tanks and aircraft made of inflatable rubber.

The plan was simple: when the Germans sent up aerial reconnaissance planes, they would come back with images revealing an apparent massing of landing forces and vehicles at Dover.

Thus, fake boats dressed to look like landing craft from great heights, were created and deployed off the coast.

Double agents planted stories and false documents with German spies, so the wrong information would be passed on to the Nazi intelligence service.

Fortitude South, as the operation was known, involved a series of fake Army communications, many of which took place in the complex maze of tunnels which lay beneath Dover Castle and played such a key role in the deception.

Today, those wartime tunnels are a popular tourist attraction to the thousands who flock to visit the famous castle and its rich history.

A spokesman for English Heritage, which manages the site, said: "Operation Fortitude was a deception plan, to deceive Hitler, and as part of that plan there were a number of techniques.

"One of those was to send fake messages.

"We have tunnels running underground at Dover Castle and the area was a hive of activity during the war.

"The communication equipment down there would have been state of the art at the time, and it was used to send messages and broadcasts in the way it would if a real Army base was being set up.

"In fact, it was operated by Post Office workers."

The plan was for the Germans to intercept the messages, believing them to be real.

Alongside a series of other measures, the Germans were hoodwinked and the elaborate scheme hailed a great success.

Believing the Allies were going to land in Calais, most of Hitler's artillery was diverted there, and when British troops instead landed in Normandy, the Nazis at first assumed they were decoys.

The result was that without the might of the German Army being in the right position, the Allied Forces could make vital in-roads into France and deliver some hugely damaging blows to the Führer's desire to dominate Europe.

According to English Heritage: "Kent, and specifically Dover, played a part in this operation.

"One of the most remarkable things about Operation Fortitude was that a month after the D-Day landings, the Germans still thought the invasion was going to happen from here."

WHAT WAS OPERATION FORTITUDE?

WITH the German forces occupying much of Europe, the events leading up to D-Day were perhaps the most crucial in the Allies' strategy.

Acutely aware that any sea-launched invasion could be met with vast fire power from the occupying German forces, a major scheme ran in tandem with the real invasion plans – which would see some 150,000 troops land on the Normandy beaches on one day. The scheme, named Fortitude, would see false information planted in a bid to deceive German intelligence and split the deployment of their military forces.

Fortitude North would suggest an invasion of Norway; Fortitude South, of the area around Calais.

Planning was extensive and began six months before the invasion. The plan was simple: Get the Germans to move their forces elsewhere to allow less resistance for the Allied ground troops. It worked well.

When the Normandy landings – Operation Neptune – took place, the largest seaborne invasion in history, not only were the Germans caught by surprise, they were

unable to swiftly adjust the deployment of forces.

The Germans were certainly expecting an onslaught... just not there.

An airborne assault preceded the landing of thousands of Allied troops.

It took several days, despite the element of surprise, for the Allies to finally consider the assault a strategic success and it came at a high human cost.

But it did provide the Allies with a vital foothold on mainland Europe, and one from which allowed them to push back the German forces and eventually turn the fortunes of the conflict.

The D-Day landings, as the Normandy invasion became known, took place on June 6, 1944 – exactly 70 years ago on Friday.

At least 4,400 Allied troops were killed in and around the landing site and around a further 8,000 injured.

A series of special events to mark the anniversary will continue this weekend, while special services of remembrance are conducted in the area each year.

Has law change just opened the door to a 'fracking revolution'?

By Jamie Weir

jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

FRACKING in the county may have come a step closer after the Queen outlined plans for a change in the law which would allow those drilling for shale gas to do so under people's homes or land – without their consent.

Unveiled during Wednesday's Queen's Speech in Westminster, it is seen by many as a vital step in clearing the road towards allowing firms to exploit this untapped energy supply.

To extract shale gas requires the firing of water at great pressure into rocks which forces the gas out. Campaigners say it can be a threat to water supplies and even cause earthquakes.

But the huge potential natural resource is becoming increasingly attractive to the Government, keen to become less reliant on volatile fuel supplies from the Middle East and eager for consumers to see a cut in their energy bills.

The change to trespass laws comes just weeks after a report by the British Geological Survey revealed up to 4.4 billion barrels of shale oil sits beneath the Weald Basin – an area which runs through the Home Counties and into the west of the county.

The oil is, however, thought to be difficult to access, but does hint at the potential scale of the resources fracking could bring.

The Queen confirmed the change stating that: "The [infrastructure] bill will enhance the UK's energy independence and security by opening up access to shale and geothermal sites."

Official government briefing notes that accompanied the speech said: "Subject to consultation, this bill would support the development of gas and oil from shale and geothermal energy by clarifying and streamlining the underground access regime."

"The Government is currently running a full consultation on this policy and the legislation is entirely dependent on the outcome of that."

The UK Onshore Operators Group (UKOOG), have welcomed the change, with their chief

executive Ken Cronin saying: "The onshore oil and gas industry is committed to working with local communities and operates within a regulatory system considered one of the best in the world."

"We have also brought forward proposals to share the benefits of shale gas exploration with those local communities."

"It serves no one if an anomaly in the legal system allows the few to block access to much needed natural resources that lie deep below

the surface of the UK and can benefit the whole of the country."

But environmental groups have argued against fracking in the county, with the Campaign to Protect Rural England recently saying: "Environmental hazards exist from even small scale activities."

"The escape of 200 tonnes of oil at a sensitive site, such as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or close to a water course or major aquifer, could be disastrous."



CRACKS: County could soon see more of this

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Looking back on that moment, Davies smiles, saying: "Going back on stage felt like coming home."

The critics agreed.

Big Issue declared that "Alan Davies has lost none of his appeal... heart-tugging and deeply funny".

The Guardian hailed him as "one of the best stand-up comics out there... packed with deft silliness and shrewd observation", while The Age said that he "had the audience in stitches... hilarious".

Davies is now going back on the road with an entirely new show entitled *Little Victories*. It can be summed up by all those adjectives beginning with C: coruscating, compelling and completely comic.

As a stand-up, Davies is a natural. He is totally at ease on stage; he generates a tremendous warmth that draws in audiences.

It is a joy to witness someone so obviously in his element.

The tour two years ago got his comic juices flowing again. Now he just can't wait to start performing live once more. What distinguishes his shows is the relationship he enjoys with his audience.

The comedian, who is happily married with two small children,

“Because they’ve especially come to see you, you get this feeling of warmth from them... I love that”

reveals "From the outset, any gig is all about establishing a rapport with the audience. It has to go beyond your material – otherwise, you're just a monologist.

"So you might start by talking to them about their town and towns nearby. Then get everyone to agree on what is the most rubbish village in the area.

"That's one way of getting people to offer things up. It's really important to have that interaction.

"Although it often appears as if you're not doing anything, the opening 10 minutes is a vital part of the show. If you get that right, it sets the evening up perfectly."

Davies is grateful for the immense affection in which his loyal audience holds him.

"They've made an effort to come out – they've booked the babysitter. It's important never to forget they have come specifically to see you.

"Once you get that in your head, you have a huge sense of gratitude towards the audience. That transmits to them.

"I'm saying to them 'You've done your bit by buying the tickets and you're free to leave at any time. But now I'll do my bit by trying to entertain you'. Because they've especially come to see you, you get this terrific feeling of warmth from them... I love that."

Alan Davies's links with our county are strong. In 1988, he graduated in drama from the University of Kent and performed his first stand-up at Whitstable Labour Club. He is back here this autumn when he brings his show *Little Victories* to the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells – here he talks about that show and the love he has for his chosen profession.

Alan comes home to a great job

The genuine bond between him and his audience frequently spills over into good-natured mickey-taking.

"Fans often come up to me and say 'I saw you perform in Bournemouth in 1999. Have you met my grandchild?'.
"I've started asking audience members when they were born, but that's not always a good idea.

I'm 47, so when they say 1998, I feign physical pain. But I have to admit I'm not always feigning – sometimes it's actual pain!"

Davies goes on to explain where the neat title of his new show originates.

"It comes from a routine about me trying to get my dad to eat blackcurrant jam. He has a limited palate. He also thinks that Indian food would make him ill. It would drive us mad as children – it's almost pathological.
"He has decided he doesn't like certain things. We had plenty of jam at home

– strawberry, raspberry, apricot... it was jam a-go-go. But he would refuse to eat jam made of blackcurrant, the finest of all the currants.

"So we set him a trap... that's one of the routines in the show. It's a classic Little Victory."

Another of the major themes of the show is how to be a good parent.

Davies, who has also enjoyed a highly successful acting career on series such as *Bob And Rose* and *Jonathan Creek*, back on BBC1 this spring, says that "It's on me to keep my children happy. They're full of fun and laughter and have really nice days. I can't bear to think of them being

anxious".

But, he adds, there is a danger we glorify our children too much.

"These days children are worshipped. Look at those parents who send pictures of their children as Christmas cards. We were house-hunting recently and we saw a house that must have contained 200 framed photos of the owners' children. Really?
"Those frames cost a bit, too!"

What keeps Davies at

the top of his game is that he has never fallen into complacency.

The comic, who has been a regular panellist for the past 11 years on BBC2's wonderfully inventive panel show, *QI*, observes that "you must never sit on your laurels".

"Good comedians never come off the stage punching the air and shouting 'I rule, baby!'. They say 'That was OK'.

"Recently I met the magician David Copperfield, who does 600 shows a year. He told me 'I'm never satisfied with my performance. I always think I could have done it better.'"

The marvellous news is that Davies shows no sign of wanting to take another break from stand-up.

“I really like touring. I don't find it arduous at all. It's that or a 17-hour day looking after toddlers.”

Now he's got the taste for it again, he doesn't want to stop.

"I love stand-up," beams the comedian, who has released two successful stand-up DVDs, *Urban Trauma* and *Life Is Pain*.

"And I really like touring – I get a big kick out of it. I don't find it arduous at all. It's that or a 17-hour day looking after toddlers, which is much more difficult.

"Stand-up is a doddle comparatively. You go around the country making people laugh. It's a really nice thing to do.

"I was talking to [comedian] Rich Hall recently. He's 58 and still enjoys touring.

"I remember going to see Bill Cosby at the Royal Albert Hall in London.

"He was in his 60s. He did an amazing two-and-a-half-hour show and received a standing ovation. Absolutely inspiring.

"Let's see where I am in 20 years' time, but I know I've still got a long way to go."

Davies closes by reflecting on how lucky he feels. "Having been away from stand-up for so long, I initially returned to it rather unwillingly.

"But now I count my blessings, which is something you don't always do when you're younger.

"I went to Sweden in 2012 with the *QI* producer John Lloyd to watch a recording of their version of *QI*. They had also asked me to do a stand-up show. I said 'Really? Will they get it?'.
"But sure enough, the Swedish audience understood every word and were loudly enthusiastic.

"Afterwards John said to me 'Every night people laugh and clap and leave happy. It's not a bad job, is it?'.
"I said 'It's a great job!'.
■ Alan Davies brings *Little Victories* to the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, on Saturday, November 1, at 8pm. Tickets are priced at £25; phone 01892 530613 or visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk/alan-davies-little-victories.



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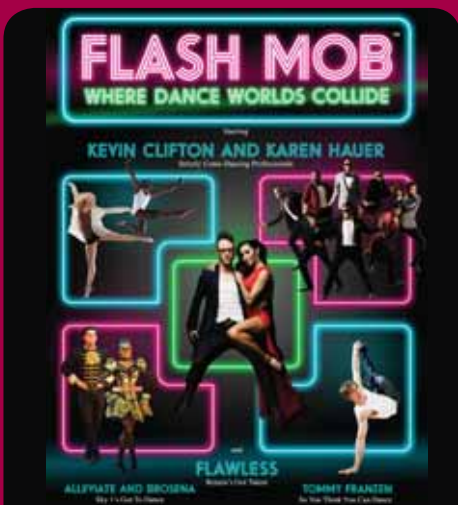
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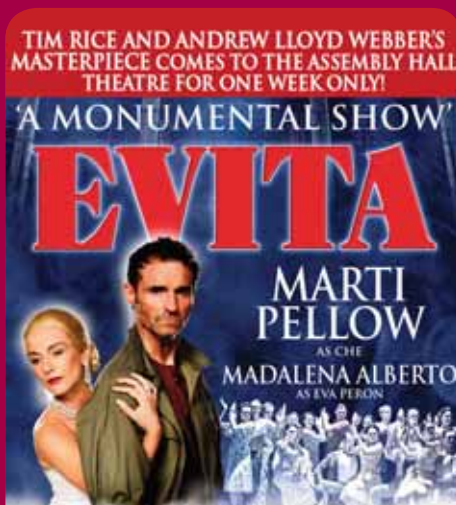
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Hunt is on for our best gardeners

Our sister publication **Kent Life** is on the search for gardeners as good as last year's winners of Kent's Garden of the Year and Best Primary School Garden. Could it be you? If so, enter this competition, held in association with Hadlow College, Bybrook Barn Garden Centre and chYps Children's Hospice at Home



Amateur Garden of the Year

"We first heard [editor] Sarah Sturt talking about the Kent Life garden competition with Andy Garland on BBC Radio Kent's Sunday gardening programme," said Eileen Prosser, who, with husband Phil, was the worthy winner of the 2013 contest.

The pair are pictured left.

"Our initial thoughts were that our garden wasn't large or grand enough, but we love our garden and hoped the judges would, too.

"When we had the phone call to say we were one of the five runners-up we were delighted.

"The lovely tea at Hadlow College was a wonderful experience and when we heard we had won, well, that was the icing on the cake, such a wonderful feeling and one we will never forget.

"We bought a beautiful statue with our vouchers and our bench takes pride of place on the patio.

"So even if you do not have a large, grand garden, don't be put off entering – if you love your garden, then, who knows, the judges might, too."



Primary School Garden of the Year

"We really enjoyed taking part in the competition.

"Since winning, the profile of the garden has risen among the parents and children and most lunchtimes and playtimes there is an increasing number of children wanting to garden," said Paul Curtis, from St Mary's Catholic Primary School, the 2013 Primary School

Garden of the Year winners.

"I would recommend all schools enter the competition. Having the photographer and Kent Life's editor visiting the school together was a fantastic experience for our children and, while winning was such a shock, it was equally amazing that their hard work had been rewarded."

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Important information

ENTRIES are now being invited for this year's 2014 Kent Life Amateur Garden of the Year and Best Primary School Garden competitions.

This is the fifth year our sister publication Kent Life has run the awards, and this year the event has new supporters.

Joining sponsor Hadlow College, which has backed the competition from year one and provided the venue and high tea for the afternoon prize-giving ceremony, are Bybrook Barn Garden Centre and Kent Life's Charity of the Year, chYps or Children's Hospice at Home.

The Ashford garden centre is generously providing the two overall winners' benches, plus vouchers to spend at the store for the winners and runners-up.

Don't miss your chance to win some of the fabulous prizes – enter today!

RULES

Closing date for entries: Friday, June 13

Eight finalists will be selected and visited by the judging panel, headed by Roger Platts, award-winning garden designer, grower and plantsman, after June 13, 2014.

All finalists' gardens will be photographed by Kent Life before July 1. Finalists will be invited to a celebratory high tea at Hadlow College on September 18, when the winners and runners-up will be announced.

Photographs and sketches cannot be returned, and by submitting them you are agreeing to their use in Kent Life and its associated website and publications.

CRITERIA

The panel will look at the overall design, planting, maintenance, special features and personal connection. In addition, for schools, the children's involvement, ecological and educational processes will be considered.

HOW TO ENTER

Fill in the entry form below and either email your entry to editor@kent-life.co.uk or post to Kent Life Garden Competition, Kent Life, Archant Kent, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, near Ashford TN25 6SS.

You can also visit www.kent-life.co.uk.

Category One

Amateur Garden of the Year

Open to all amateur gardeners, whatever the size of your garden

How to enter

- Complete the entry form below
- Attach a written description of your garden and what it means to you
- Include up to six photographs taken either last season or this year that show overviews and details
- Add a sketch plan
- Send in by post or email, or enter online at www.kent-life.co.uk

First prize:

- Engraved bench from Bybrook Barn
- Framed personalised certificate
- £250 Bybrook Barn Garden Centre vouchers
- Pictorial feature in Kent Life

Four runners-up:

- Framed personalised certificate
- £100 Bybrook Barn Garden Centre vouchers

Category Two

Primary School Garden of the Year

Open to all primary schools in Kent where gardening is part of your curriculum and where the children are actively involved in a gardening club

How to enter

- Complete the entry form below
- Attach a written description of the school garden and any supporting programmes
- Include up to six photographs
- Optional: add some pictures/input from the children
- Send in by post or email, or enter online at www.kent-life.co.uk

First prize:

- Engraved bench from Bybrook Barn
- Framed personalised certificate
- £250 Bybrook Barn Garden Centre vouchers
- Pictorial feature in Kent Life

Two runners-up:

- Framed personalised certificate
- £100 Bybrook Barn Garden Centre vouchers



Entry Form 2014

Category One Garden of the Year ☐ Category Two Primary School Garden of the Year ☐

Your name:

Address:

Postcode:

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* **DON'T FORGET!** Have you included?...

Description ☐ Photographs ☐ Plan of the garden ☐

* Entries are invalid without all supporting material

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KENT LIFE



MAN WITH A PLAN: Chef patron Dev Biswal is taking The Ambrette name to Canterbury

City restaurant next step in 'bringing Kent to the world'

THE Ambrette empire is expanding into Canterbury. The Margate restaurant that changed the way many people in east Kent viewed the Indian dining experience has already established a second venue in Rye, East Sussex, and now chef patron Dev Biswal has announced The Ambrette @ Canterbury.

His approach to cuisine involves a "curry-free menu" of south Indian-style dishes using locally-sourced seasonal ingredients, all with a modern twist.

Now he has secured the site of the former Beer Cart Arms in the cathedral city. Refurbishment has started ahead of an expected opening next month.

"We secured the site at the end of last year, but there's a lot of work to do," said Biswal.

"Licensed premises are very hard to come by in Canterbury city centre – there are strict regulations and it's not easy to find them.

"From a business point of view, it was a natural progression – we have 5,000 followers in the Canterbury area."

Biswal's first two Ambrette restaurants have been recommended by leading guides including Michelin, AA, Waitrose Good Food and Harden's, while an impressive haul of accolades includes Taste of Kent's Best Restaurant award.

While Canterbury represents the

Chef patron Dev Biswal's plans to take his unique Indian cuisine to a wider audience has taken another step forward, as **David Mairs** discovered

next stage in the development of the Ambrette experience, it is Biswal's views of Margate, where it all started, that are perhaps most interesting.

Despite his restaurant there soon earning a positive reputation among the local lovers of all things spice, there were suggestions that the town, which had suffered economically for such a long time,

“I want to establish the brand in Kent and then showcase the county's produce further afield”

might be struggling to hold such a venture and its chef patron could be about to depart for resorts new.

Biswal scotches the idea, however. "That was never the case," he said. "Margate, in fact, is our biggest restaurant in terms of the number of customers we get.

"The opening of Turner [arts

centre 'Turner Contemporary'] has changed everything. We are getting a different type of customer – the sort of people who appreciate fine art, for example.

"Margate is being viewed more and more as a destination town and we have always strived ourselves to be a destination restaurant – some people travel here all the way from Dartford."

And, doubtless, from London, which could be of considerable help when Biswal takes The Ambrette to the capital. Because that, ultimately, is where he is considering as further ground for growth, but not before Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells and Brighton are all brought under the umbrella.

"I want to consolidate in the South East first before moving into London, where it's a big market and easy to get lost.

"I want to establish the brand in Kent and then showcase the county's produce further afield. Our motto is 'Bringing Kent to the world'."

But first things first and that

move to the cathedral city.

"Canterbury is a fantastic historic town with a great food heritage and perfect demographics for my style of cooking," said Biswal, who had been looking for premises to open a restaurant there after three successful pop-up restaurant events at the Kent & Canterbury Club in October 2012.

Open to both members and the general public, the eight-course tasting menu at both lunch and dinner sold out almost immediately.

Canterbury will also serve as a training and development site, with centralised production of marinades and sauces.

And the east Kent ambition doesn't end there, with plans to open a fourth restaurant between Canterbury and Margate focusing on seafood and vegetarian cooking, with the emphasis on gluten- and allergen-free foods.

The Ambrette @ Canterbury will have seating for some 100 diners – a larger operation than both Margate and Rye.

"We plan to explore all-day dining with an Indian accent and offer breakfast and afternoon teas," said Biswal.

The aspiration shows no sign of fading. And there are few, you can be sure, who will be complaining.

■ The Ambrette
44 King Street, Margate CT9 1QE
(telephone 01843 231504,
web www.theambrette.co.uk)

This is the one dirty habit you can tell other people all about

The Dirty Habit

Location: Hollingbourne

By **Tim Miles**

WE actually popped in to The Dirty Habit in Hollingbourne, near Maidstone, one afternoon by chance for a quick drink on the way home. And were very glad we did! This historic pub sits at the bottom of the North Downs and is directly on the ancient pilgrimage route to Canterbury.

The original site was evidently home to some enterprising 11th-century monks who sold their homebrewed ale to thirsty travellers. The monks have long since departed,

but the pub that now stands on the site has much the same business model... only a bit more upmarket.

With its wooden panelling, stone floors, comfy chairs and imposing bar, The Dirty Habit makes you feel welcome straight away. It feels right. It has real character and history oozing from its walls, rather than painted on, like some places.

In fact our afternoon visit left us so impressed that we booked a table for the following night... and we were not disappointed.

Despite being early in the week, the pub was busy with the sort of

buzz you get in places where people are enjoying each other's company.

For starters we went for king prawns with a lemon mayonnaise and crispy-duck pancakes with spring onions and hoi-sin sauce. The prawns were succulent and meaty, while the duck pancakes were quite simply delicious and it was only some pretty fancy fork work that saw me fight off repeated raids from the other side of the table.

Our main courses were Moroccan lamb burger, tabbouleh, chips, spicy harrissa and yoghurt, and guinea fowl with fresh vegetables and new potatoes. The latter was well cooked and moist, with its flavour allowed to

take centre stage by the sweet and earthy vegetables.

An interesting twist, the lamb burger was a delight. The tabbouleh provided a zing to the meal, while the harrissa gave it a bit of kick, neither overpowering the flavour of the tender lamb burger itself. Light eaters please note, this was a very generously-sized meal.

For dessert, my wife went for her 'favourite', describing her vanilla crème brûlée with shortbread biscuit as delicious. I'm not a big brûlée fan myself, but the tiny bite of shortbread biscuit I was allowed to try was very nice. Having enjoyed my burger, I decided to bow out of a dessert.

To finish, we ordered an espresso and a latte and reflected on a wonderful meal, in a beautiful building, with attentive service. We had not planned to go to The Dirty Habit, but will be going again soon and would advise you do, too... you won't be disappointed.

Our meal – including pre-dinner drinks, a bottle of Aussie Shiraz, two starters, two mains, a dessert and coffees – came to £77. Not bad, considering the quality of the food and the character of the pub itself.

■ **The Dirty Habit**
Upper Street, Hollingbourne,
Maidstone ME17 1UW (phone
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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

White-liners are central to my rant

THANK you to the people who responded to my letter regarding cyclists.

Although I appreciate not all cyclists set out to 'wind up' the motorist, there are some who seem to take great delight in riding single file in the middle of the carriageway, six inches away from the central white line.

If they want to act like policemen and control traffic, I suggest they do the training, wear the uniform and do the job. If not, then leave that to the professionals and kindly move over and stop obstructing the traffic.

I did agree with James Amy [KoS 25.05] and his comments on obesity levels in adults and children.

However, I don't think many parents would want their children cycling on the roads with white van man, boy racer or the worst offender, the school-run mum who is persistently late driving Chav and Chaveney to school in her Chelsea tractor while having a conversation on her mobile phone and on arrival parking on the zig-zag lines outside the school gates.

Lack of physical education in schools has a lot to answer for.

I would also like to point out the recent 'letter of the week' relating to the Pilgrims Hospice was not mine, despite being attributed to me.

Graham Stevens, Faversham

■ **EDITOR'S NOTE:** Apologies to Mr Stevens. The letter about the hospice should, of course, have been attributed to Steve Auty, chief executive of the Pilgrims Hospice. Sorry for any confusion.

Patience stretched by 'Lycra lunatics'

I READ Graham Stevens's letter, [Team Lycra lunatics a midweek menace, KoS 18.05] and the subsequent replies it generated with some amusement... and a little sadness.

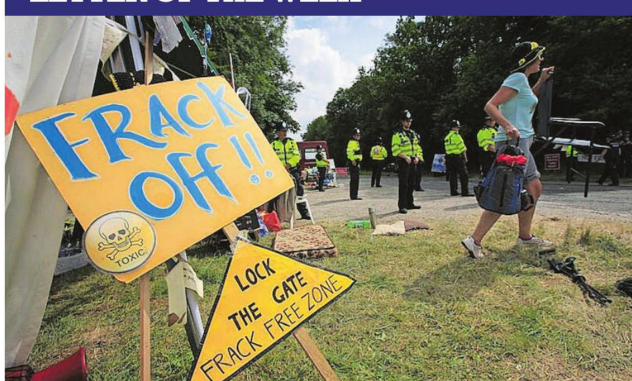
After all, we all share the same road space in a never-ending bid to get from A to B in the quickest time without being mangled or mutilated.

I'm old enough (66) to remember Sunday afternoon leisure drives, taking Granny for her weekly airing at a sedate 28-and-a-half mph.

Dad would never go over 30mph in his 1936 Austin 12... motorways didn't exist in those days.

Nowadays, the racing cyclists would overtake you, cut you up and hurl abuse as they sped off in a cloud of dust.

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Hidden story reveals real fear of fracking

IT WAS interesting to read [KoS 25.05] the Government is pressurising local authorities to grant fracking licences in the same issue concerns were being raised over the impact of the proposed power pylons between Richborough and Canterbury.

The environmental impact posed by these pylons fades into insignificance when compared with the devastation the granting of licences for fracking for shale gas or the extraction of coal-bed methane (CBM) might cause.

Another article highlighted the growing importance of the county's £6 billion rural economy and the impact fracking might have on our production of food and tourism.

The diminution of Kent's already-stressed water resources coupled with the high risk of permanent contamination of

aquifer supplies and surface pollution the fracking process might cause renders the proposed compensation payment of a few thousand pounds by the fracking industry to local authorities totally inadequate.

I only learned last year that in 2011 a licence to set up a test drill for the extraction of CBM had been granted for a site on the outskirts of Sandwich.

Research into these extraction processes reveals that if permits are granted in south-east England then, in order for the process to be economically viable, it's probable there won't just be a few isolated wells but a network of several thousand, all of which will require access roads and interconnecting pipework.

John Clandillon-Baker, Sandwich

It is dangerous to stereotype, but we all do it to make sense of our world.

As a cyclist, motorist, PCV and HGV licence-holder, I see lunacy from all sectors of the road-user community.

Lack of awareness, self-preservation and courtesy are not just confined to the 'Lycra lunatics', who tend to swarm when the weather is conducive to their activities.

No one is perfect (not even me), but I do wonder if a Cycle Proficiency re-test and vehicle-awareness course might help make some cyclists more conscious of the dangers they face when they chance their arm with motorists, buses and 44-tonne artics.

Finally, the cyclists that ride on the pavement of my own home town are not Lycra lunatics by and large; they are selfish, dangerous oiks who should know better... and they are not all adolescent hoodies.

Harry Harris, by email

Set your sights on the whole target

YOUR article on shooting [KoS 25.05] was fine and covered shotgun shooting of clays – but this is only a part of the shooting world.

There is vast army of people who

shoot rifles on the ranges at Bisley in Surrey and locally on the military ranges at Lydd and Hythe.

This is a completely different discipline and both come under the umbrella of target shooting.

On top of this is sports shooting, which your article touched on, that involves both small and full-bore rifles and shotguns to kill live quarry.

Full-bore rifles are used for deer, boar and foxes, small-bore for killing rabbits and rats.

Shotguns are invariably used for winged targets, covering gamebirds and agricultural pests like woodpigeons.

Therefore, if you are inviting your readers to comment on shooting or gun ownership, I think you should cover the subject more comprehensively. Otherwise you are misleading them by omission.

John Atkins, New Romney

A sound decision to shoot magpies?

FOR the past two years I have been shooting magpies, which feed on other baby birds in the nest.

Since doing so, the number of small birds near me has increased.

We now see hundreds flying from tree to tree. What a lovely sight and the birdsong in the morning is something to cherish forever.

George Russell Giltrap, by email

Please don't class us as all the same

YOUR reporter Maria Chiorando was clearly suffering from a surfeit of pre-conceived 'classism' in her approach to clay shooting.

She considers it "traditionally the preserve of the upper classes" and was surprised to encounter "no sense of overt snobbism" at West Kent Shooting School.

Well, as a clay shooter for 30 years who has never shot live game, I can assure readers there is a very well-established clay-shooting industry firmly rooted in 'ordinary hard-working people' (as the politicians say) with little or no linkage to 'live game' shooting.

Clearly, they share a common heritage, but there are many popular shoots around Kent that I guarantee would quickly disabuse anyone of any links to the huntin', shootin' and fishin' set!

You will find it a safe, friendly and welcoming sport with no hints of snobbery, no 'gung-ho'-ness and definitely no silly aggressive gun-waving.

John Evans, Ashford

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles which tie in with our parent company Archant's overall mission statement.

Archant's mission statement is: "We bring together motivated buyers and sellers through the creation of unique and compelling content and community expertise." This is summed up in the strapline 'Inspiring Communities'.

The way KoS will create our unique and compelling content is to follow these 10 principles: **Kent on Sunday will:**

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.
- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between

news, comment and advertising.

- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
- 9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
- 10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.



Kent Life at Cobham

by **Julie Stanley**
from Dover

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See page 39 »

Discovery Park all set to become college's new hub for science



See page 39 »

Coach firm joins the City bandwagon with new commuter route



BusinessQuarter

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Summer 2014

Get onside ahead of World Cup

Bosses urged to play ball with those staff keen to follow tournament in Brazil while keeping business the priority, writes **Chris Murphy**

WHILE football fans worldwide will be celebrating the start of the FIFA World Cup this month, for employers rather closer to home it could prove something of a headache.

For all the samba goings-on in Rio, there's the issue of sickies in Sittingbourne and hangovers in Hoo.

Because for some staff the lure of this feast of football may prove a little too much.

And with two of England's group-stage games taking place during the week, firms across the county know how the beautiful game can outweigh responsibility to the workplace.

The good news, however, is that, with Brazil four hours behind us, the England games start later in the day than they did during the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

But with many fans keen to experience as much of the action – regardless of England's involvement – as possible, many employees will be

looking to leave work early and then stay up late drinking with friends.

Both scenarios could spell difficulties with bosses, but one Kent business leader suggests a pragmatic approach from both sides will avoid the need to tackle any dirty play.

Jo James, chief executive of the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, is urging managers to speak to staff ahead of the first ball being kicked on June 12.

She said: "For main sporting events like

CUP THAT CHEERS: A little give and take from both the employer and employee will be needed this World Cup

the World Cup, it would be prudent for businesses to plan to minimise any disruption to their business through staff taking time off to watch games.

"We are quite fortunate, with the majority of games being in the evening, but none the less a word beforehand with staff could minimise disruptions.

"Having an open dialogue with staff prior to the start of the tournament would give employers the opportunity to work with staff, lay down expectations and, where possible, build in a flexible approach to working hours which were acceptable to the business.

"Agree to allow employees to show up a little later, say at 10am, rather than have them all start to make excuses and not turn up at all. It has to be about planning, communication and flexibility where possible."

She added: "This is one of the biggest sporting events in the world and England has a strong and loyal following.

"Fans love to cheer the team on, but sometimes their enthusiasm can run away with them and they can end up being the worse for wear during and after matches.

Continued on page 37 »

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www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk



GROUP D GAMES



Saturday, June 14

England v Italy

Venue: **Manaus**
Kick-off (UK time): 11pm

Thursday, June 19

England v Uruguay

Venue: **Sao Paulo**
Kick-off (UK time): 8pm

Tuesday, June 24

England v Costa Rica

Venue: **Belo Horizonte**
Kick-off (UK time): 5pm

So how is Brazil's economy?

BRAZIL has had precious little to cheer in the months leading up to the World Cup, due to a problematic economy combining with anger from the country's people at the huge costs involved of staging both the World Cup and the 2016 Olympic Games.

With the streets of Rio divided between the wealthy and poverty-stricken, it can provide for an uncomfortable environment.

Unsurprisingly, it is hoped this tournament will boost the nation's flagging business numbers.

Its economy grew a mere 0.2 per cent in the first quarter of 2014.

The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics is equally gloomy for the future, lowering its

economic growth expectations.

President Dilma Rousseff is seeking re-election later this year and is hoping the World Cup will boost income from foreign tourists.

But with the central bank keeping its key interest rate at an eye-watering 11 per cent, inflation is still running at 6 per cent.

These figures have only fanned the flames of discontent among some Brazilians angry at the costs spent on new stadiums and infrastructure.

Business investment also fell 2.1 per cent in the first quarter, the biggest drop in two years.

Brazil is South America's biggest economy and the world's seventh largest.

« Continued from page 45

"Of course, many employers love watching the matches, too, but they have a business to run and they will need all their staff to perform at their best at all times, especially in these tough economic times.

"A good degree of understanding on both sides can avoid needless confrontations that could potentially affect the morale of other members of staff that may not be as keen on the World Cup.

"Celebrating success on the pitch or commiserating defeat together can prevent any possible breakdown in relationships.

"A boss doesn't want their staff to phone in sick after every match because they have overdone the fun times. At the same time, employees don't want to be hard at work and then hear the boss has failed to show up for the same reasons.

"So long as employer and employee work together, a well-run business should glide through Brazil 2014 without concerns."

And now the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) has taken action to ensure fair play.

It said the main bones of contention would be requests for holiday, taking sick days and using work computers to watch games.

The organisation said: "Overall, flexibility from both employers and employees throughout the World Cup period is key to a productive business

'Before the start of the World Cup or any major sporting event it would be best to have agreements in place regarding such issues as sickness, time off or even watching TV during these events'

and engaged workforce.

"Before the start of the World Cup or any major sporting event, it would be best to have agreements in place regarding such issues as time off, sickness absence or even watching

TV during these events. By working together, both employers and employees will understand the needs of each party.

"But in challenging times, a more flexible approach – for example to working hours or annual leave – may not always be possible as the employer will need to maintain a certain working level."

Drinking, or the effects of drinking, can see some people take their eye off the ball at work and Acas said: "Some people may like to participate in a drink or two while watching the match or even may go to the pub to watch a match live.

"It is important to remember that anyone caught drinking at work or found to be under the influence of alcohol in the workplace could be subject to disciplinary procedures.

"There may be a clear no-alcohol policy at work and employees may need a reminder."

As ever, common sense lies at the heart of ensuring both staff and management can all enjoy the football in Brazil.

And, you never know, perhaps England will prove the biggest surprise of all and actually get past the quarter-finals.

NTW

Business ...in brief

Plans for multi-million-pound leisure complex still on track

PROPOSALS for a new leisure centre, swimming pool and primary school on the site of a former household waste tip near Hythe have taken another step forward through being given the nod by councillors.

Cabinet members on Shepway District Council have voted to continue with the project at Princes Parade in Seabrook.

At the heart of the scheme is a £7.5 million swimming pool and leisure centre.

Built alongside the pool will be a new school to replace Seabrook Primary School and parkland designed to open up the setting of the canal.

Up to 36 homes are also proposed.

The cabinet has now given the go-ahead for further investigations into the project, including a public exhibition which took place on Thursday.



POOL: Part of proposals



KEYNOTE: Michael Fallon MP

Focus on Swale regeneration at conference

MORE than 200 delegates gathered in Sittingbourne this week for a conference that featured speeches by businessman Digby Jones and business minister Michael Fallon.

The Swale Regeneration Conference, hosted by the local council at the Coniston Hotel, was designed to draw together those with interests in developing in and around the district and to share the latest best business practice.

It comes as Swale Borough Council continues to push plans for a major regeneration of Sittingbourne town centre.

Andrew Bowles, council leader, said: "This has really helped us to put Swale on the map."

Southeastern given a five-star rating

RAIL firm Southeastern is not often lauded, but it has been endorsed with a five-star rating for its standards of service delivery and management.

The award was part of the British Quality Foundation Recognised for Excellence (R4E) programme. The external assessment saw a week-long visit reviewing its processes.

ACCA warning over unqualified risks

SMALL businesses are being warned not to hire unqualified book-keepers – by the sector's national association.

Paula Goddon, chair of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants' southern network, said: "The term accountant is not protected by law, so absolutely anyone can call themselves one."

Apprenticeships fair set for July 3

THE third annual Jobs and Apprenticeships Fair will take place in Thanet next month.

Organised by MPs Laura Sandys and Sir Roger Gale, it will take place at The Winter Gardens in Margate on July 3 between 10am and 3pm. Sir Roger said: "Hopefully we will help residents find new opportunities."

Goodhew to make a splash at county show

OLYMPIC swimmer Duncan Goodhew will be the guest speaker when the Kent branch of the Institute of Directors (IoD) holds its business breakfast at the Kent County Show next month.

The star, who won a bronze at the 1980 Moscow Games, is now a businessman and author.

Kent branch chairman Emma Lid-

diard said: "He is well remembered as a massive inspiration to many people and his drive and ambition in the world of sport can be, I am sure, replicated in business."

The Kent County Show this year runs from July 11-13. It will be celebrating its 50th anniversary at its home at the Kent Showground in Detling, near Maidstone.

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College's appliance of science will now be taught at Discovery Park

EKC shifts curriculum off campus, giving students opportunity to work with top businesses

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

EAST Kent College (EKC) is to set up a new satellite site at the former Pfizer headquarters in Sandwich.

The move comes as the college prepares to embark on a new era following its success in taking over the Folkestone and Dover campuses of K College.

Both sites become part of EKC in time for the start of the next academic year in September.

As part of preparations to boost its offerings, the college will establish the new centre at the Discovery Park, and in doing so shift the teaching of its science curriculum to the business park.

Students and staff will have the opportunity to use industry-standard laboratories and work alongside the growing community of science-based companies at the site.

In addition, it will relocate its 70-strong corporate-services team, which includes finance, IT, human resources and marketing.

EKC says the move will ensure its three campuses – Broadstairs and those in Dover and Folkestone, for which it takes over responsibility from K College in August – will be of equal status.

As part of the deal, EKC will take 5,390 sq ft of office and training space within the site's Innovation House and 893 sq ft of laboratory space at Discovery Park.

The vacated rooms and offices at the Broadstairs campus will be used for other training and education.

Graham Razey, principal of EKC, said: "This move marks an important step in our plans to create a further education college that truly reflects our commitment to serving



NEW LESSON: East Kent College principal Graham Razey with Discovery Park's managing director, Paul Barber

the whole of east Kent. We hope it sends a strong message to students, their parents and businesses that East Kent College is determined to deliver for this part of the county.

campuses, as well as for the communities they each serve."

The decision was welcomed by Paul Barber, managing director of Discovery Park.

'Having looked at a number of possible locations, it was quickly clear Discovery Park offered the best option in terms of location, quality and cost'

"No single campus will be seen as the head office or have a higher priority than the others, and we believe this will be very positive for the 550 staff working at the three

He said: "Discovery Park is a place where many businesses already collaborate and benefit from each other's expertise.

"East Kent College will be a fan-

tastic addition to our community."

Mr Razey added: "Having looked at a number of possible locations, it was quickly very clear that Discovery Park offered the best option in terms of location, quality and cost.

"As well as accessing the science facilities, it will also present an excellent opportunity for East Kent College to establish links with the 80 or so businesses already at Discovery Park and demonstrate what we offer in terms of training, as well as student placements and apprenticeships."

East Kent College will complete the move of its management team to Discovery Park by August.



COMFORT: Deal to London via Bayliss

New City coach route cheaper than by train

COMMUTERS from east Kent have another option opening up to them after a coach firm started a new daily service to London.

Bayliss Executive Travel is looking to offer a more cost-effective route to the capital, undercutting that of rail firm Southeastern.

It comes amid growing concerns from commuters that they are being priced off trains as the Government continues its shift to ensure rail network costs are met more by the users rather than the public purse.

Kent has seen prices soar over recent years, with many suggesting that the above-inflation price hikes, when salaries are not rising, is forcing them out of their jobs.

The new weekday service begins in Deal at 5.45am and heads via Canterbury with stop-offs en route.

Managing director Alistair Bayliss said: "It's better value for money than the train. I hate to put it in those terms, but we are cheaper, by a significant amount per month."

The service stops at multiple points along its route from Deal to the Albert Embankment and takes about one hour and 45 minutes from start to final stop. The equivalent train journey is, say Bayliss bosses, just "minutes faster".

The coach back to Kent departs from the Albert Embankment at 5pm.

Mr Bayliss said: "The feedback we have had so far has been very good.

"We are in it to offer an alternative to people who have been ripped off by the train service.

"We are also trying to make people's daily lives a bit easier."

Manufacturing a chance to scoop major award

MANUFACTURERS around the county are being urged to enter the sixth annual Future Manufacturing Awards.

The national competition is free to enter and open to all manufacturers and supply chain businesses, regardless of size.

It is organised by EEF, the manufacturers' organisation, and finance firm Aldermore.

There are seven different categories to enter, covering: success in strategic growth, smart products, health and safety initiatives, investment in skills and training, operational excellence, reducing environmental impact and exporting.

South East regional winners will be selected and then compete for national awards. One company will go on to be crowned 'Winner of Winners'.

Deadline for entry is October 3. For details on how to enter, visit www.eef.org.uk/awards.

Work begins on £6m city care home project

WORK has begun on a new state-of-the-art care home near Canterbury.

Sanctuary Group is developing the 60-bedroom care home in Hersden, at the junction of Blackthorn Road and Island Road.

The £6 million project is due for completion in the summer of 2015. A groundbreaking ceremony took place at the end of last month.

Penny Halliday, Sanctuary's head of development, commercial, said: "This is a forward-thinking project set to provide much-needed residential and dementia care for older people in this part of Kent."

Canterbury City Council elected member Tony Austin said: "Both during and after construction, the employment created by the new care home will also be most welcome to the district."

Gallagher digs deep as it develops quarry site

MAIDSTONE engineering firm Gallagher Group has splashed out £5 million on equipment for use at its Hermitage Quarry site, close to junction five of the M20.

The site had been subject to an ongoing battle by campaigners, who had fought to prevent further quarrying and destruction of ancient woodland.

However, work was given the go-ahead and Gallagher is now investing heavily with new loading shovels, tipping and dump trucks and a crusher.

Nick Yandle, the group's chief executive, said: "With the construction economy showing signs of a concerted upturn, particularly in residential development, and with Hermitage Quarry the county's last source of high-quality Kentish ragstone, now is the right time to upgrade our equipment as we extend the quarry."

Council vows to fight on in bid to save M&S store

GRAVESHAM Borough Council has reacted with dismay at the announced closure of the Marks and Spencer store in the town centre.

Business is being transferred to Bluewater and Hempstead Valley.

The company said every effort was being made to move all 63 Gravesend jobs to these new-look stores.

A council spokesman said: "Now does not seem to be the time to withdraw from a town on the brink of huge opportunities.

"Gravesham council will be making strong representations to M&S management and offering employees support in their efforts to retain the New Road store. We believe that there is a strong case to retain, or even expand, M&S's presence in Gravesend."

M&S insist that plans are still at the proposal stage.

BusinessQuarter | Profiles

THE PURPLE EDGE

Good marketing solutions can help you reach global audience

If small businesses were more inclined to take strategic advice, would they grow faster?

This is what the Government's £30 million Growth Voucher programme is aiming to test by allocating up to £2,000 matched funding towards obtaining advice on five key business growth topics.

And it didn't take specialist IT solutions provider Absols long to see the power of marketing after its first discussion with Jim Hunt, from The Purple Edge marketing company in Canterbury.

"We followed Jim's advice and uploaded our details to LinkedIn, including those of a new member of staff with specific skills," said Ian Wilkinson, director at Absols.

"Within days we were contacted by a Canadian company asking us to do some work for them.

"We applied for the Growth Voucher funding because we decided we needed a coherent marketing strategy, rather than just doing odd

bits and pieces now and then."

Absols, based in Maidstone, is a well-respected company with long-standing customers, but all of them were found through word of mouth.

The Purple Edge will work with Absols to create a marketing strategy designed to give it a stronger online presence and sustained growth.

"We have been accepted as one of the official providers of marketing advice for the Growth Voucher scheme and Absols chose us via the web portal after winning the grant," said Mr Hunt.

"We will be working with Absols to raise their visibility, improve their networking and social-media presence and generally find ways in which we can drive more customers their way," he added.

■ To find out if you qualify

and how to apply, go to at www.gov.uk/apply-growth-vouchers, or contact Jim Hunt at The Purple Edge (phone 01227 456143, web www.thepurpleedge.co.uk).



WISE WORDS: Jim Hunt

FUTURE DESIGN

Good advertising strategy proof you can bite through 'credit crunch'

BY now we should all be sick of hearing of 'double-dip recessions' and the 'credit crunch'.

Luckily this isn't another announcement about how we are all doomed; in fact it's a tale about how a company in the late 1920s managed to increase its profits by 30 per cent during the American Great Depression.

The company was Kellogg's and its success during this period can be credited to one thing: advertising.

An almost automated response during periods of a struggling economy is to cut spending, starting with advertising.

Contrary to this, Kellogg's doubled its marketing efforts, moved aggressively into radio advertising and pushed its new cereal, Rice Krispies, reaping the rewards.

In 1927, a study found companies that kept their advertising budgets steady or increased them during tough economic times saw sales hold up significantly against those that didn't.

There is, of course, a certain amount of risk involved in a move like this, although marketing and advertising budgets don't have to be in the tens of thousands of pounds to be successful, especially with the introduction of social media in the last decade.



When the economy is set to take a long walk off a short pier, don't automatically hit the off button.

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■ For more information, please contact Feature Design, Unit 5, Herne Business Park, Herne Bay CT6 7FE (phone 01227 743 730, email studio@featuredesign.co.uk, web visit www.featuredesign.co.uk).

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K COLLEGE

College offers you that chance to go further

IF YOU'RE considering a university or professional course this September, you might not have realised these are often available at your local college.

K College in Tonbridge offers excellent study programmes in partnership with the University of Kent, the University of Greenwich and Canterbury Christ Church University.

Many can be studied part-time, providing the flexibility to gain a relevant qualification alongside work.

There are the added benefits of studying locally, too: they are competitively priced and you can save money on accommodation and travel; smaller class sizes, giving you close support and regular contact with staff; plus lecturers have excellent industry links, up-to-date knowledge and extensive experience.

K College also offers a range of professional qualifications from online virtual training, one-day courses such as first-aid refresher and year-long programmes giving you chartered status in your chosen field.

See for yourself at K College's open day on Saturday, June 21, from 10am-1pm. Staff will be on hand to discuss your options, and many of the university programmes are offering taster sessions to give you an idea of the courses.

■ You can sign up for the open day and taster sessions at www.kcollege.ac.uk/kos.



FUTURE YOU? K College offers excellent study programmes in partnership with several universities

PASL

Virtual PA saves you hassle for a fraction of cost

FOR those employers or businesses who feel they may be spending too much time and money employing permanent/contracted administrators, help may now be at hand.

Kim Shepherd has just launched Precise Admin Services Limited, a new business aimed at providing off-site general office administration – a virtual PA, if you like.

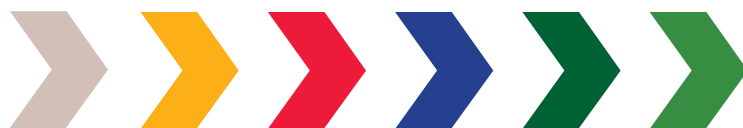
With years of experience working for local authorities and various private companies, Kim offers a variety of services, including:

- general administration
- word-processing
- invoicing and client reminders
- website management
- powerpoint presentation
- event preparation
- project management

Potential clients are offered a free quotation and all work is undertaken on a quote by project basis.

■ For further enquiries, please email kim@preciseadminservices.co.uk.

K COLLEGE A FRESH START FOR ASHFORD & WEST KENT



OPEN DAY
Sat June 21, 10am -1pm
TONBRIDGE

INFO EVENING
Mon June 23, 5-8pm
TUNBRIDGE WELLS

It's an exciting time to be studying in Ashford, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells! We're making some changes this summer to give you the best local College possible.

From 1st August, our Ashford, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells campuses will become part of the Hadlow College Group. Hadlow College is Kent's only Ofsted 'outstanding' college and offers students exceptional facilities, a high quality of teaching and student support and excellent links with employers; allowing them to enjoy high levels of success and leave fully equipped for working life. These same experiences will be rooted in the new colleges for West Kent and Ashford.



UNIVERSITY TASTER SESSIONS

Saturday June 21st
TONBRIDGE
One hour sessions from 9am-2pm

It's not too late to sign up for one of our University-level programmes starting this September. Why not join us for a taster session to find out more? Come in at 9am for a welcome talk and tour, then feel free to sign up for more than one session and have all of your questions answered about the application process and student finance.

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THE merger of two of the South East's leading law firms has culminated with a new name and brand for the combined business.

Cripps brings together the best areas of the cultures and working practices of its constituent elements – Cripps Harries Hall and Vertex Law and – to offer clients comprehensive, customer-focused legal expertise.

The firm has enjoyed strong growth since the merger last September, opening new offices at the Discovery Park, Sandwich, launching private client services from its Kings Hill premises and announcing plans for a new headquarters building scheduled to open in 2016.

"The merger has more than delivered on our hopes and expectations," said Cripps managing partner Gavin Tyler.

"We have come together as a single team, stronger than the constituent parts, united under a new brand, and committed to delivering an excellent service to our clients.

"The results have been excellent with a string of awards for the quality of support we provide and top industry rankings across

our different areas of expertise.

"We have also enjoyed a strong financial performance, providing us with the resources for further investment in the business and future growth and development."

The launch of the new brand follows some six months' work that has encompassed staff from across the business with guidance from renowned branding specialist Bruce Webster.

"This is about much more than just a new logo," added senior partner Michael Stevens.

"We have worked with our colleagues to define what it means to be part of Cripps and how we orientate ourselves, so we are entirely focused on the needs of our clients. It is a case of understanding their objectives and how we can help them achieve those goals as easily as possible and at reasonable cost.

"The legal world is changing and here at Cripps we are proud to be at the forefront of establishing how a modern law firm needs to operate – and the benefits to clients and colleagues from having a dynamic, forward-looking culture."



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Plan now and keep taxman away from your loved ones' inheritance

INHERITANCE tax (IHT) is a real cost to an increasing number of families and, at 40 per cent on death, it can greatly diminish the amount you leave to your nearest and dearest.

The effective freezing of the nil-rate band (exempt amount at £325,000) for a number of years, together with house price increases in the South East, mean more of us will be caught in the IHT net.

There is currently the ability for spouses/civil partners to benefit from the unused proportion of their deceased spouse/partner's nil-rate band which can be claimed on the survivor's death, effectively doubling the exempt amount to £650,000.

You can also benefit by the making of gifts during a lifetime, reducing the tax charge payable on death depending on the length of time the donor survives after making the gift;

down to zero per cent after seven years. This can also be combined with the use of trusts.

Another way of reducing the amount you lose can be business property relief for those owners of a trading business, exempting up to 100 per cent of the business value from IHT.

Charitable donations on death, gifts on consideration of marriage and a £3,000 annual gift exemption are just some of the other ways the value of your estate can be reduced.

If you would like help with forward planning to minimise your IHT bill and ensure your financial wishes are met on your death, then please consider our seminar on Thursday, July 10, from 4.45pm-7pm at the Ashford International Hotel.

Details are available on our website www.macintyreHUDSON.co.uk/seminars-events



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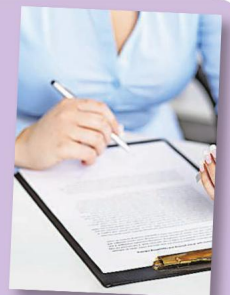
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Going back to school not as nerve-racking as you'd think

NO matter what life throws at you or however old you may be, there are still plenty of options available at MidKent College.

Whether you're looking to learn new skills, switch careers or simply enjoy a new hobby, the college – one of the biggest and best in the South East – is sure to have a course to suit your every need.

Many people have no idea what they want to do with their lives for many years after leaving school, so if you're thinking about signing up but are worried about being the only adult learner in the college, there's no need – you won't be.

From those traditional courses like

plumbing and hairdressing to more modern options such as creative media and IT, there are endless possibilities for those planning a career change or eyeing that lucrative promotion.

One of the college's ongoing success stories is the growth of its higher-education provision, providing adult learners with a great alternative to university through its range of qualifications, including Higher National Diplomas (HNDs) and foundation degrees.

Tuition fees for full-time HE courses for the 2014-15 academic year – all of which are validated by either the University of Kent or Canterbury Christ Church University – are £5,950.

"HNDs in particular are often dis-

credited as not having the same value as a degree, but they can in fact be a better choice for many people," said Stephen Batchelor, MidKent College's director of higher education.

'It was the best decision I've ever made and has really helped me set a direction for my life'

"They have a stronger element of vocational learning, imparting real world skills in addition to the academic side of things."

Meanwhile, the college also offers a number of Access to Higher Education courses – perfect for adult learners who want to develop their careers by gaining a degree but lack the formal qualifications wanted by most higher-education institutions.

Its tutors help students learn and develop the skills needed to study at university, while time will also be allocated to the UCAS application process.

Most Access courses – which include Access to Healthcare, Access to Social Sciences and Access to Teaching and Humanities – run over three or four days and last for a year, with classes designed to be flexible and fit in with school hours.

"I would do it all over again if I could,"

said 36-year-old Fransine Okotie, who progressed to study for a degree in midwifery at Canterbury Christ Church University after completing an Access course at the college.

"It was the best decision I've ever made and has really helped me set a direction for my life.

"I was a bit nervous about returning to education in my 30s, but everybody else was in the same position so I was able to settle in really quickly.

"I can't praise the course enough. It was a great experience and really prepared me for the type of things I've had to do at university."

■ Visit www.midkent.ac.uk for more information or call the course information line on 01634 402020.

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Quote: SP6-K05

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"We would like to say a big thank you to GN Holidays and your team at the 60s Xmas party at Pakefield. We all had one of our best weekends for a long time. We are all looking forward to your March weekend. Once again thank you to GN Holidays, you have a great company." Mr Lineham

"Please pass on to the GN Holidays management and entertainment team that we again had a fabulous party break at Pakefield. The atmosphere was brilliant, so friendly, relaxing, and very entertaining. Thank you again for giving people such a happy time." Gaye Fox



£10PP
DEPOSIT

Free
Drinks

Marmalade



New Amen Corner

£10pp deposit



The Dakotas

Original 60s Bands

Over 40s only

Swinging 60s Christmas Party

Pontins Pakefield Resort, Suffolk Coast

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- ♦ 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

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Free
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Alvin Stardust



Abba tribute

Rod
Stewart
Tribute

Frankie
Valli
Tribute

Over 40s only

Super 70s Christmas Party

Pontins Pakefield Resort, Suffolk Coast

£10PP
DEPOSIT

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21 November
2014

3 NIGHTS
HALF BOARD
+ FREE DRINKS

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Quote: MS11-K05

Join us for a fab, festive weekend of swinging 70s sounds at Pontins seaside resort near Lowestoft, Suffolk. Enjoy an entertainment packed break with leather-clad 70s rocker Alvin Stardust performing live plus Abba, Rod Stewart and Frankie Valli tribute acts. We've booked the whole resort and thrown in (not literally!) 3 free drinks per person every night.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- ♦ 3 free drinks every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- ♦ Full entertainment programme
- ♦ 3 nights en-suite chalet with electric, bed linen, towels, TV, tea & coffee making facilities - upgrade available
- ♦ 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners



Free
Drinks

The Fourmost

Car Ferry included



£10pp deposit



Over 40s only

Swinging 60s Christmas Party

Warner Norton Grange, Isle of Wight

£10PP
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PRICE INCLUDES:

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- evening for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea and standard coffee
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2014

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+ FREE DRINKS

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Quote: SS11-K05

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

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WHERE THE FIGHTBACK BEGAN: The Qashqai has been a huge success for Nissan, which is spending some £250 million on its Sunderland site

UK now a driving force

Steve Loader looks at our once-under-threat motor industry and finds that it is in rude health and could, by 2017, be producing two million cars a year

AS commentators combed the wreckage of our recession-ravaged economy in 2008, it was widely agreed that Britain had been foolish to rely on the so-called excellence of its financial and service sectors.

What was needed, they said, was a more balanced economy, promoting the revival of Britain's manufacturing sector.

But doom-mongers were quick to respond with: "Too late. It's gone – just look at the motor industry."

Six years on and this despair has been disproved; UK manufacturing output has risen steadily since last autumn, often exceeding monthly forecasts and usually up by almost 3 per cent against the same month in 2013.

And the once-maligned motor industry is performing heroics. Admittedly, it is mostly foreign-owned, but its factories create jobs onsite and in their suppliers' plants as well as generating badly-needed exports.

Autocar magazine marked its 120th anniversary by insisting that the British car industry was stronger now than at any time in those 120 years, and on course to produce more than two million cars a year by 2017, beating the record of 1.92 million in 1972 and the 1.57m forecast for 2014.

Britain also recently overtook France to become Europe's third-biggest car-producer after Germany and Spain.

The motor-industry mouthpiece, the Society of Motor Manufacturers



MADE IN ENGLAND: Honda's classy-looking CR-V (left) is made in Swindon; right, the Toyota Auris... the world's No 1 car-maker builds both its family hatchback and the bigger Avensis model at its plant in Derby



and Traders (SMMT), has calculated what all these cars are worth to the UK economy, too: £60 billion in 2012, or 3 per cent of the UK economy and £31 billion in exports – 10 per cent of all UK exports.

Autocar editor Chas Hallett said the UK motor industry was on its knees in 1982, building just 887,000 cars a year, due to a lack of top-flight engineers, poor training after the Second World War and crippling divisions in British society, but he added:

"It has taken nearly 30 years but the industry is now in the best shape it's ever been and is a vitally important part of the country's wider economy.

"Britain has one of the richest heritages of all when it comes to car design and manufacture and the UK is now a genuine world

force when it comes to pioneering, innovation and engineering."

Current big investors include: Jaguar Land Rover, owned by the Indian TATA conglomerate and readying an all-new compact executive Jaguar to rival the all-conquering BMW 3 Series; BMW, itself expanding MINI production at the former Morris site in Oxford; and Nissan, spending £250 million on its Sunderland factory, which became the first brick in the rebuilding of the UK motor industry when it opened in 1984.

The Japanese marque is expanding the site to build cars for its premium Infiniti brand, adding to existing Nissan-badged volumes of the hugely successful Qashqai and Juke crossover models and Leaf electric car.

Another Japanese marque,

Honda, produces its three key models here at Swindon: the Jazz supermini, CR-V SUV and Civic family hatchback range.

The third big Japanese contributor to UK motor industry success is Toyota: the world No 1 car-maker set up a site near Derby in 1989 and now makes its Auris family hatchback and bigger Avensis family car there.

And while Vauxhall's UK presence was threatened a few years ago, when American parent General Motors looked to cut costs, UK plants at Ellesmere Port and Luton have fought back: the former has been confirmed as the production site for the next-generation Astra family hatch – it produces the current car – while Luton has begun production of the second-generation Vivaro van.

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*Model shown is an MG3 35Style in White On The Tiles with no optional extras at £9,999 OTR. **On the road price of £8,399 applies to the MG3 31Time with no optional extras. On the road (OTR) prices include VAT where applicable, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and 12 months' Road Fund Licence. Costs exclude optional metallic paint, accessories and graphics packages. Flexible Warranty - A 3yrs/ 60,000 mile warranty is standard on all new MG3 models. Flexible Warranty options are available only at time of vehicle purchase at an additional cost. Packages include the following options: 4yrs or 60,000 miles, 4yrs or 80,000 miles, 4yrs or 100,000 miles, 5yrs or 60,000 miles, 5yrs or 80,000 miles, 5yrs or 100,000 miles. Fuel consumption: figures shown are based on official EU test figures and are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results. Please see MG.CO.UK or ask your local dealer.

Fuel Consumption MPG (l/100km) for MG3 range: Urban 37.7 (7.5), Extra Urban 57.6 (4.9), Combined 48.7 (5.8), CO₂ Emissions 136 g/km.



Satisfied owners

GERMAN cars dominated the 2014 What Car?/JD Power customer satisfaction survey, with the VW Up city car (pictured) rated No 1 for its reliability, ease of driving and fuel-efficiency.

The rest of the top 10 was: 2 – VW Golf Plus, 3 – Skoda Yeti, 4 – Mercedes-Benz C-Class, 5 – VW Scirocco, 6 – VW Tiguan, 7 equal – Lexus CT200h/Skoda Octavia/Volvo V70 and XC70, and 10 – Jaguar XF.

Jaguar and Lexus were joint No 1 manufacturers.



Yaris upgraded

TOYOTA says popular demand prompted upgrades to its Yaris supermini for 2014, cosmetic changes inside and out, plus improved powertrains delivering better fuel economy, emission levels and noise/vibration performance.

Most noticeable are the 'crossflow' motif of the new-look front end and the re-engineered three-cylinder 1.0-litre petrol engine, which now has CO₂ emissions below the road-tax-exempt 100g/km threshold.



Mark 2 for Vivaro

VAUXHALL'S Luton-built Vivaro van is now on sale from £17,995 (ex-VAT) – £450 less than the outgoing model.

It comes in two trims – Vivaro and Vivaro Sportive – and four body styles: panel van, double cab, nine-seater combi (from £25,699 including VAT) and platform cab.

Vauxhall claims class-leading build quality and practicality with improved cargo dimensions and excellent payload capability, plus an enhanced cabin.

NOW WITH STYLE: Once again Hyundai has delivered a vehicle that ticks all the boxes, while the designers have even added a little 'cred' this time round

City car star take two... Hyundai does it again

Hyundai grabbed the city-car sector by the scruff of the neck with the original i10. Incredibly, it's done it again, says **Steve Loader.**

MY head reverberated for a week when I drove the latest Hyundai i10. So it was noisy and unrefined, then? Not a bit of it.

The reverberation was my head repeating: "What a transformation – it's even better than the old one."

The Korean marque nailed the city-car game with the original i10 (2008-13), a brilliant car born into the Hyundai line-up from nothing, unless you recall the quite awful Atoz, axed in the UK from 2001.

Admittedly, the Mark 1 i10 looked slightly bizarre, being styled to fit four people, give them an entry door each... and not much else.

However, even if the occupants looked like they were wearing the i10 rather than riding in it, this little car was outstanding in so many ways.

It was cheap to buy, fuel and insure and there was even a low-emission road-tax-exempt version later.

It also drove surprisingly well, with lively engine options, responsive handling and town-car verve plus decent motorway refinement. Considering its short wheelbase, the ride wasn't bad, either.

Typically generous specifications and Hyundai's comprehensive five-year/unlimited-mileage warranty also helped, as did the then Government's grant-aided Scrappage scheme, a wrong-headed policy that doomed many perfectly good used cars to the crusher, while many wrecks carried on.

It won't have bothered Hyundai, though: Scrappage and the appealing i10 catapulted the brand and its volumes into the big time with UK buyers and enabled an overhaul of its dealership network.

Can the new i10 deliver another quantum leap for Hyundai? Unlikely, because there is so much more city-car competition now and no cock-eyed Government scheme to help this time – though never rule this out where politicians are concerned.

Toyota, Peugeot and Citroën will soon launch their new trio of city car clones,

while the VW group has its own impressive threesome

– the VW Up, SEAT Mii and Skoda Citigo. But the new i10 (from £8,495) cannot fail to



HYUNDAI i10 1.2 SE

Price:	£9,995
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£30 (Zero year one)
Best rival:	Skoda Citigo

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Personal Contract Purchase Representative Example

i10 S 1.0	
24 Monthly Payments of	£95.00
On The Road Price	£8,495.00
Customer Deposit	£2,093.00
Amount of Credit	£6,402.00
Interest Charges	£670.50
Optional Final Payment	£4,792.50
Total Amount Payable	£9,165.50
Fixed Rate of Interest	3.04% p.a.
Duration of Agreement	2 years
Annual Mileage	10,000
Excess Mileage Charge per mile	14.9p
Representative APR	5.9%*



Model shown: i10 S 1.0 at £8,495 OTR in Pure White solid paint at no extra cost. On the road (OTR) price shown includes customer saving discount where applicable, VAT where applicable, delivery, vehicle first registration fee, number plates and 12 months' Road Fund Licence. *5.9% APR available on all Hyundai i10 models. At the end of the Personal Contract Purchase there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle, where equity is available; (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle. Terms and conditions apply. Finance subject to status. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees/indemnities may be required. Hyundai Motor Finance RH1. 1SR. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers. We may receive a commission from them for the introduction. All offers, finance and savings are subject to availability and are only available to private retail customers on new cars purchased and registered in the UK (excluding Channel Islands or Isle of Man), between 3rd April and 30th June 2014, inclusive, sourced through Hyundai Motor UK Ltd or its authorised dealers. Offers are not available for customers under the Hyundai Affinity Programme. 5 Year Warranty terms and exclusions apply. Please see www.hyundai.co.uk or ask your local Dealer. Fuel consumption: figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results.

Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai i10 S 1.0: Urban 47.1 (6.0), Extra Urban 70.6 (4.0), Combined 60.1 (4.7), CO₂ Emissions 108 g/km.

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New Note 1.2 MAN: URBAN 47.96 mpg (5.9L/100km); EXTRA URBAN 70.6 mpg (4.0L/100km); COMBINED 60.1 mpg (4.7L/100km); CO₂ emissions 109g/km.

Offers valid until 30 June 2014 at participating dealers only. Model shown is New Note Visia Limited Edition at £9,995 OTR. Information correct at time of going to print. Model shown is for illustration purposes only. Models subject to availability. Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd, The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 9YS.

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Spencer Private Hospitals are two hospitals situated in East Kent. The larger of the two hospitals is a 22 bed independent hospital situated at the QEOM Hospital in Margate, whilst the second hospital is a 4 bed independent hospital based at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Both hospitals have a reputation for providing excellent medical and surgical facilities supported by Specialist Consultants, Specialist Nurses and Physiotherapists. We have state of the art diagnostic equipment and exceptionally high standards of nursing care.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancy for the following staff:

Digital Marketing Assistant – Dover

Full time Hours: 37.5 per week Closing date: 12/06/2014
Salary: £18,000 - £20,000 per annum

Qualifications

- Maths and English GCSE A-C or equivalent
- 1 years' marketing experience
- Marketing qualification
- Social media, SEO and PPC experience essential

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Justine Whittle, Marketing Assistant, on 01304 245951

For a job description and application form please visit www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers

Alternatively, please contact Jo Wright, Senior HR Assistant
Telephone: 01304 245961

E-mail: joanne.wright@spencerhospitals.com

Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer.
This position is subject to a Disclosure and Barring check.



Spencer Private Hospitals are two hospitals situated in East Kent. The larger of the two hospitals is a 22 bed independent hospital situated at the QEOM Hospital in Margate, whilst the second hospital is a 4 bed independent hospital based at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Both hospitals have a reputation for providing excellent medical and surgical facilities supported by Specialist Consultants, Specialist Nurses and Physiotherapists. We have state of the art diagnostic equipment and exceptionally high standards of nursing care.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancy for the following staff

Physiotherapy Manager – Margate

Full time Hours: 37.5 per week Closing date: 20/06/2014
Salary: £45,675.00 per annum

Qualifications

- Maths and English GCSE A-C or equivalent
- Current Registration with Health Professional Council.
- Minimum of 3 years experience in a similar post.
- Clinical leadership and motivating skills for staff and patients

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Mary Guarneri, Matron on 01843 234252

For a job description and application form please visit www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers

Alternatively, please contact Jo Wright, Senior HR Assistant
Telephone: 01304 245961

E-mail: joanne.wright@spencerhospitals.com

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Top 10 Tips for writing a CV

Before you send off your CV or upload it to a job board you need to be 100% confident you are putting your best foot forward.

- 1 Check and double check grammar and spelling ☒
- 2 Exaggeration - Don't be tempted to invent qualifications or embellish the extent of your work experience. ☒
- 3 Keep it concise and clear - Less is more. Aim for two pages, maximum. ☒
- 4 No repetition - Always check that you haven't used the same words for describing different skills, work experience, or interests. ☒
- 5 Tailor Your CV - Don't be tempted to send the same CV to a large number of employers. Tailoring it will give you a better chance of success. ☒
- 6 Presentation - Use a commonly used font such as Times Roman or Arial ☒
- 7 Highlight achievements - Remember the purpose/goal of the CV is to get the interview - it needs to stand out and help you sell yourself. ☒
- 8 Back up with examples - Try to include examples of any skill or achievement. This will give an employer an idea of how you have used your skills. ☒
- 9 Use your friends and family - Get someone to proof read your CV. ☒
- 10 Keep it fresh - Update your CV whenever you've gained more experience. ☒



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BRADSTOW SCHOOL

Bradstow is a creative and unique residential school for children between the ages of 5 & 19. It is situated in 13 acres of parkland just a few hundred metres from the sandy beaches of Broadstairs. We seek to meet the needs of children and young people with autism and severe learning difficulties with associated behaviours that may be challenging. We have achieved national recognition for our developments in Communication and Behaviour Management.

DUE TO EXPANDING OUR PROVISION WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES:

HOUSEPARENTS – EXTENDED PROVISION

Working as part of the childcare teams, this role involves providing care and support to children and young people mornings, evenings and weekends being a child or young person's Keyworker and some management responsibility.

£22,227 - £25,172 - 41 hours per week,
(including late/early shifts and weekends) **All Year Round**

TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS – Residential Care

As part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to the children and young people in childcare teams mornings, evenings and weekends. These roles are aimed at candidates with some experience of Care work.

£14,013 - £14,880 plus 10% per annum - 41 hours per week,
(including weekends) – **Term time only**, plus 2 weeks *

CHILDCARE SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

As part of the childcare teams, these roles involve providing care and support to the children and young people mornings, evenings and weekends. No experience required, full training will be given.

£11,286 - £11,784 plus 10% per annum – 36.5 hours per week, (including weekends – more hours available) – **Term time only**, plus 2 weeks*

FLEXIBANK TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS

To provide additional support a cover within either the classrooms or residences.

Flexi-bank - £7.26 per hour – **When required** (up to 41 hours per week including split shifts and weekends)

COOK

To provide healthy meals for pupils and staff

£10,417 - £11,296, 28 hours per week: Mon, 10.00 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.,
Tue – Thurs, 12.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.

& Sun 8.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. **Term Time Only**, plus two weeks*

DOMESTIC ASSISTANTS

To undertake general cleaning duties and maintain an acceptable standard of cleanliness and hygiene at Bradstow

£8,052 - £8,317 per annum – 27.5 hours per week, 7.30 am – 12.30 am Mon-Fri,
- **Term time only**, plus two weeks*

£4,394 - £4,537 per annum – 15 hours per week, 4 pm – 7 pm Mon-Fri,
- **Term time only**, plus two weeks*

***For these roles there will also be up to a maximum of two weeks for the school's respite care provision if required, for which extra payment would be paid.**

For all posts we look for candidates who are mature, warm, creative and open to learning with a patient and caring attitude to deal sensitively with vulnerable children.

We are committed to sustainability and preserving the environment and therefore encourage applications by email, so for an application form and information pack please email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk. Or you may call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine).

Please note that CV's will not be considered.

The closing date for all applications is 5pm, Thursday 12th June 2014.



Spencer Private Hospitals are two hospitals situated in East Kent. The larger of the two hospitals is a 22 bed independent hospital situated at the QEOM Hospital in Margate, whilst the second hospital is a 4 bed independent hospital based at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Both hospitals have a reputation for providing excellent medical and surgical facilities supported by Specialist Consultants, Specialist Nurses and Physiotherapists. We have state of the art diagnostic equipment and exceptionally high standards of nursing care.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

HR Assistant – Dover (6 months temp.)

Full time Hours: 37.5 per week Closing date: 20/06/2014
Salary: £20,295.49 per annum

Qualifications

- Maths and English GCSE A-C or equivalent
- CIPD Qualification
- 2 years experience working in a HR environment

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit,
please contact: Mandy Oliver, 01304 245946

For a job description and application form please visit
www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers

Alternatively, please contact Jo Wright, Senior HR Assistant
Telephone: 01304 245961

E-mail: joanne.wright@spencerhospitals.com

Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer.
This position is subject to a Disclosure and Barring check.



Westlands School

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne,
Kent ME10 1PF

Swale
Academies Trust



SITE MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN/CARETAKER

Required as soon as possible

£14,526 - £16,468 - 37 hours a week

The successful applicant will work as a member of the Site Maintenance team, line-managed by the Site Manager. As well as general caretaking duties, they will be expected to undertake site maintenance.

A working knowledge and experience of carpentry, electrics, plumbing and decorating would be desirable.

Applicants should be flexible over start and finish times. Shifts will be between the hours of 5.30 a.m. and 7.30 p.m. Extra payments will be made to cover any out-of-hours lettings during evenings and weekends and for weekend/ Bank Holiday standby duty, all of which are carried out on a mandatory, shared rota basis.

Recruitment packs with full details are available from Westlands School or online; (www.westlands.org.uk).

An application form and covering letter detailing how you meet the person specification should be provided.

Please note, we cannot accept CVs alone. No agencies.

Closing date: Wednesday 18 June 14 (noon)

Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Contact details telephone 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461

Email swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr S Cox MA. Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA

Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732

Registered Office: Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS



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Tuesday, 17 June – 5.30-7pm, Medway Campus

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- > Construction
- > Engineering
- > English
- > Maths
- > Media
- > Teacher training programme (PGCE)
- > Trainers/assessors or internal verifiers in technology, sales, marketing and management, gas, and health and social care.

PLUS – don't miss your chance to speak with our teacher coaches and learning technologists about the support available.

Contact
01634 383639
or visit www.midkent.ac.uk
for more information.



MidKent College

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Swale Academies Trust



Westlands School

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF

Senior Farm Technician

Required for August 2014

Salary £20,877 - £23,752 (depending on experience)

Full time, 37 hours per week,

with some hours to be worked at weekends on a rota basis.

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and committed technician to be responsible for the running of our School Farm. Responsibilities will include overall leadership of the farm, which includes site maintenance, animal welfare, management of specific budgets linked to the farm and line management of the Farm Technician and weekend stock-keepers. The successful applicant will be expected to continue to build upon the links that have been formed with the local rural community and with other schools; particularly those in our Trust, and to encourage extra-curricular activities linked to the farm, such as Young Farmers, agricultural shows and visits. They will also take a lead on environmental projects across the school.

Recruitment packs are available from Westlands School or online (www.westlands.org.uk). Please note that we cannot accept CVs without an application form. Closing date: Friday 6 June 2014 at noon.

Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check.

Contact Details

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461

Email swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk

Head of School: Mr S Cox MA

Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA



Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732

Registered Office: Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS

Public Notice

8 June 2014



The Canterbury City Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Amendment No 1) Order 2014

The Canterbury City Council proposes to make the above Order under the provisions of Sections 32 and 35 and Parts III and IV of the Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, with the consent of the Kent County Council under Section 39(3) of the said Act of 1984.

The proposed order would have the effect of allowing free car parking on part of the Westmeads Recreation Ground, Whitstable in marked parking bays.

A copy of the draft Order, the Order amended by the proposal and the statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined at the Council's Offices as follows:

Council Offices, Military Road, Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm
Canterbury

If you wish to object to the proposal you should send the grounds for your objection, in writing, to the undersigned so as to arrive by 9am on 30 June 2014.

Dated this 8th day of June 2014.

Colin Carmichael
Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury CT1 1YW

PLANNING

Folkestone
Hythe & Romney Marsh
Shepway District Council



THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y14/0611/SH - Broad Street House Broad Street Lymington Folkestone Kent - Listed Building Consent for 4no. ensuite bathrooms

Y14/0643/SH - Little Holt Farm Elmsted Ashford Kent TN25 5JY - Listed building consent for the erection of a single storey extension

Y14/0644/SH - 12 High Street New Romney Kent TN28 8DD - Crown reduce to previous pruning points two Sycamore trees and 2 Lime trees situated within a conservation area

Y14/0660/SH# - West Lawn Lydd Road New Romney Kent TN28 8DH - Erection of a detached dwelling following demolition of the existing outbuildings

Y14/0428/SH - 9 The Bayle Folkestone Kent CT20 1SQ - Listed Building Consent for removal of all existing floor joists, floorboards, internal partitions and internal plaster, and installation of new; removal of chimney from 1st floor to attic.

Y14/0300/SH - A major application for planning permission which is accompanied by an Environmental Statement which affects the setting of listed buildings and public rights of way. Shorncliffe Garrison Folkestone Kent - Hybrid application for the redevelopment of land at Shorncliffe Garrison. Application for outline permission (with all matters reserved) for demolition of existing buildings (with the exception of the listed buildings and water tower) and erection of up to 906 dwellings including affordable housing, community services and facilities (use Classes A1/A3/B1a/D1 and D2 uses up to 1,998 sqm), new Primary school and nursery (up to 3,500 sqm), combined new pavilion/cadet hut facility (up to 600 sqm) at The Stadium, retained cricket pitches including mini football pitches, equipped play, associated public open space and toilets, together with, associated accesses/roads, parking, associated services, infrastructure, landscaping, attenuation features and earthworks. Full application comprising demolition of existing buildings and erection of 294 dwellings including affordable housing, open space, improvements to 'The Stadium' sports facilities and new car park, equipped play improvements/works to The Backdoor Training Area, associated accesses/roads, parking, associated services, infrastructure, landscaping, attenuation features and earthworks.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2013/14



Each year the Council's Accounts are audited and any person interested has the opportunity to inspect and make copies of the accounts and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts related to them. For the year ended 31st March 2014 these documents will be available on application to the Finance Manager at the Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford (01233 330540) between 9am and 4.30pm, weekdays from 30th June 2014 to 25th July 2014. Local Government electors for the Council's area and their representatives also have:

- (1) The right to question the Auditor about the Accounts.
- (2) Written notice of an objection must first be sent to the Auditor. The audit is being carried out by Mr Andy Mack, Engagement Lead (Director), Grant Thornton UK LLP, Grant Thornton House, Melton Street, London, NW1 2EP, and will be conducted under the provisions of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011.

The auditor can be contacted at the above address from Tuesday 5th August 2014 until the audit is completed.

COLLINS Gavin and Emma are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful second Son, Sam Noah Collins, born on 17th April 2014, at Darent Valley Hospital, weighing 6lbs 10oz. Much loved Son, Brother, Grandson, Great Grandson and Nephew.

NOTICE OF INTENDED LAND DISPOSAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 SECTION 123 (2A)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council intends to dispose of the freehold interest in two areas of land, which are for identification purposes described in the schedule to this notice.

This notice is given in so far as the areas of land consist of or form part of open space within the meaning of the above Section.

Plans of the land are available to view at the Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2AB or at the Weald Information Centre, The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook TN17 3HF.

Objections to the proposed disposals must be made in writing to the Legal Services Manager, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS by no later than 20th June 2014.

SCHEDULE

Land to the rear of 42-48 Fuggles Close, Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, Kent (approximately 0.066 hectares)

Land at Cherryfields, Benenden, Cranbrook, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (approximately 0.016 hectares)

Paul Cummins, Legal Services Manager

Dated June 2014



LICENSING ACT 2003:

APPLICATION FOR PREMISES LICENCE

Berengrave Petrol Station Ltd has made an application in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003 for a premises licence for Berengrave Petrol Station Ltd, 666, Lower Rainham Road, Rainham, Gillingham, Kent ME8 7TY.

The application is made to Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR.

Berengrave Petrol Station are applying for the following licensable activity - Off licence alcohol sales (8am-6pm, Monday-Friday and 8am-4pm, Saturday)

Should you wish to make representations to the Council it must be in writing and/or you can view our application by contacting the Council on 01634 337107 or 337108 during normal hours, by the date: 10/07/2014.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5,000.

Enforcement - 01634 337112 or 337106 or by email: licensing@medway.gov.uk

Write to: Licensing Unit, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR.



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or its setting.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 23 JUNE 2014

SW/14/0582:

Variation of condition 30 (hours of operation and restriction/ vehicle loading/unloading and movements) of planning permission SW/13/1075 for the 'reconstruction of industrial premises following demolition due to serious fire'.

1. To allow use of the premises on weekdays from 7am to 10:30pm (previously 8am) and 7am to 4:30pm on Saturdays (previously 8am).
2. To allow use of the premises on a Bank Holiday 7am till 10:30pm with occasional Sunday working.
3. To change the hours for vehicle loading from no loading outside of the hours of 6pm and 8am on any day 'vehicle loading or un-loading shall not take place before 6am of after 10:30pm on any day including Sunday's and Bank Holidays' - Faversham Linen Services, 29 Ashford Road, FAVERSHAM; REASONS 1 & 2

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

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Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do **key-it-in promptly** when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

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calls cost £1.50 per minute plus network charges

Or **Text..** **REPLY2** (leave a space) the six-digit box number (leave a space) and then enter your message & send to **80098** eg: **REPLY2 123456 hi get in touch...** then send to **80098** Successfully forwarded messages cost £1.50 per message (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for your safety and security.

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TEXT IN NOW AND CHAT TO LOCAL PEOPLE. SEND: CHAT2 TO : 80098 (T&C'S BELOW)

JANE 29yr old horsey female, loves the outdoors, cycling, as well as duvet days, WLTm not too serious male for a hopefully normal relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412315

CHRISTINA, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. Can accommodate and will answer all calls. Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 410127

MARY 5ft 6in size 12 blonde, nice personality, good conversationalist, interesting, lots of interests WLTm likeminded caring, happy male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412169

CLARE 36yrs successful single mum, independent, employed with OHAC, size 10, green eyes, pretty, likes swimming, family life, seeking male with similar values and interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412053

SAM, 35yrs, own business, seeks, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1949 Box 408297

SUSAN seeking nice male, medium build, 35, easygoing, likes music, nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406779

JEVISH widow, 67, loves animals, seeks genuine, Jewish gent, 68-73 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410547

PETITE slim blonde 39yrs, pretty big blue eyes, looking for similar easygoing older male to put a spark back into my life, enjoys nights in/out and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412327

WIDOW 70, lonely, seeking gent, 70-75 to bring a bit of sparkle back in life, likes theatre, cinema. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412475

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 366019

KATIE 26yr old pretty slim blue eyed blonde looking for evening entertainment with open-minded discreet guy, any age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412319

MARILYN really nice curvy tactile female, loves romantic walks, cosy nights in, quality times, looking for nice male to spend time and fall in love with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411871

SUSIE, married, adventurous/dominant lady, 38yrs, seeks discreet man any age/area for no strings fun. Tel: 0905 002 1945 Box 412285

SHARON 32yrs and still soul searching for Mr Right, I enjoy keeping in shape, caring for people, seeking loving respectful guy who also knows a good time. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412049

SLIM petite, attractive brunette, 56, British/Russian origin, excellent cook/home maker, seeks cultured male for serious relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412129

FREYA 33 ft blonde, loves dancing and have a good time, employed, own home, one son, seeking similar laidback guy/dad for dates, chats and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412045

PLACE YOUR AD BY TEXT
SIMPLY TEXT: REG followed by your **FIRST NAME, DATE OF BIRTH, AREA AND YOUR ADVERT (max 155 characters)** and **SEND to 80098**
FREE (Standard Network rates apply)

JULIE attractive outgoing female with a very young attitude, loves running, living life, travel, WLTm someone special to make my life complete, hope you're out there. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411513

BLONDE pretty, long legged, voluptuous, blue eyes, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410585

JAN 5ft 6ins, dark hair/eyes, nice smile, likes music, travel, countryside, animals, employed, OHAC, looking for companionship with similar lonely heart. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411865

SARAH 25 petite slim attractive blonde student, enjoys keeping fit, looking good, socialising, going out, being a mum WLTm similar fun genuine guy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411537

LYN 34yrs, pretty petite dark haired female, loves music, meals out, quiet drinks out, seeking caring male with GSOH who can make me feel special again. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411037

CAROLINE blonde curvy very active lady who loves to socialise, countryside, seeking similar caring male for LTR and to share good times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409413

RACHEL 39, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 8ins, bubbly, outgoing, naughty, busy, divorced, seeks male for discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410835

SUE optimistic divorced lady with OHAC, good job, enjoys meals out, cinema, countryside, pub lunches, looking for likeminded outgoing happy male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410467

CATHY very much a lady seeks get up to 62yrs who would appreciate an independent professional sassy female who loves to be wined, dined and romanced. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410301

WOULD you like to bounce into spring with me and onwards? Widow late 60's, enjoy most things in life, looking for someone to enjoy them with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411395

SATURDAY night blues! Home alone again and looking for male companionship. Blonde, slim, 32yrs, attractive, what are you waiting for? Call me if you're normal and lovely. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408867

LINDA 37, green eyes, attractive, bubbly size 12, enjoys cosy nights in, text chats, seeking talish fun guy for meals out, pubs, clubs and spending quality times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411033

CAROLINE 39yr old pretty blonde looking for handsome caring man to put the sparkle back into my life and make each other feel special. Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411891

33YR old sick of being single working mum, OHAC, likes the simple things in life, looking for romantic, honest guy with GSOH for cosy nights in and fun nights out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411887

CINDY 31 attractive, size 12 brown eyed blonde, new to this but sick of passing up potential soul mate so thought I'd give it a go. ACA Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411873

RITA divorced care worker with no ties, 5ft 11ins, dark hair, enjoys meals out, cosy nights in, seeking male companion for friendship hopefully leading to a relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411775

JANET 5ft 8ins, slim 12, pretty, green eyes, brown hair, seeking male companion for friendship hopefully leading to a relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411889

MELANIE tall curvy attractive bubbly female who loves meals out, cosy nights in with a nice wine, walking, seeks professional male with outgoing GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411509

34YR single mum of 1 who loves nights out having a good time seeks similar sociable fun guy to enjoy relaxed but extremely fun relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411079

BUSTY Caribbean lady who loves music, dance and singing, looking for nice older guy for mutual adult no strings fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410305

MARIE slim attractive fun brunette, looking for good times with exciting broadminded male. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409707

LADY 60, size 12, easy going, likes animals, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411301

MARIE 37yrs slim attractive caring, likes meals in/out, cinema, tennis, keeping fit/ active, WLTm fun loving, reliable man for friendship leading to more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411037

SOPHIE 27yr old nursing assistant with no ties looking for discreet adult fun times with tall attractive guy 35-42yrs. GSOH essential. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410717

Men Seeking

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BESIDE the Pointe. Literate self-possessing, leggy, kindred spirit sought by white male for elevating the bar. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412223

MALE 49, attractive, fit, spontaneous good company, no ties, seeking likeminded lady for the road ahead, nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411309

CHIPS on the pier, walks on the beach/countryside, VGSOH, 58yrs old, fit male, seeks female for laughs and love and whatever. NE Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411725

MALE 71, 5ft 10ins, medium build, N/S, likes gardening, dogs, seeks female, 65-71 for friendship/companionship and outings. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411587

MALE 60yr single tall, slim, not working, smoker, enjoys a drink, seeks nice lady 50-60. Text only! Mailbox Box: 439769

JAMES young, free and single, please give me a call if interested. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412345

EX headmaster, tall, dark, seeks adventurous lady, status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412263

MALE 49, 5ft 10ins, likes cinema, reading, walks, seeks female in the Thanet area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412235

DAVE 62, 5ft 10ins, slim, semi-retired builder, seeks no strings discreet daytime meets for adult fun. Surrey. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410899

MALE likes outdoor life, smoker, seeking local female for cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410755

BRIAN 70, Maidstone, seeking female, 60 plus, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, days out and cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410611

DEREK 5ft 11ins, slim-medium build, loving, caring, seeking black lady for possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410511

MALE 5ft 11ins, good-looking, athletic build, looking for discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411477

DEREK seeking female, 50-60 for company, friendship and have fun together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411433

RAY 63, 5ft 10ins, slim, semi-retired, seeking no strings discreet meets for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411147

WORLD war veteran seeking happy lady with nice conversation in the Kent area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411133

PAUL own business, looking for daytime fun with lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411127

DAVE 65, retired, N/S, likes gardening, music, meals out, holidays, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410971

JANE pretty size 12, loves going out socialising, countryside, meals out, looking for no strings fun, nothing heavy, give me a call if you are seeking similar. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410579

SUE 32 blonde blue eyed curvy nurse, caring, loving romantic, faithful, likes cosy nights in with a nice wine and lovely man, if that's you, call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410571

RACHAEL 36yr old nurse looking to raise the temperature of reliable sincere male. I have my OACH, a single mum to 1, love gym, cosy meals, animals etc. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411045

SUSAN 29 green eyes, dark hair, slim, looking for Mr tall dark and handsome to take me out, enjoy adult times without complications just fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410957

KAREN blonde blue eyed slim 35yr old interesting female looking for good times, call me if are in a similar situation, board and looking for some fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410719

DIVORCED male, seeks Oriental lady, likes animals, music, will take care of you forever. Thanet area, willing to travel. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409963

41YR old male, dark hair, 5ft 11ins, easy going, likes music, guitar, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410411

BROWN eyed white mature, handsome male, seeking black female, 18-50 for discreet no strings adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410377

PHIL 6ft, clean shaven, blue eyes, smart, likes sports, walks, films, theatre, music, animals, GSOH, seeks female, 40-55 for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410351

MALE seeking female to love and be loved back. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408941

FIT fellow, full of fun, 58, seeks to find fanciable lady for free and fascinating future for LTR. Find your jar half full. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405857

CHRIS 52, slim, looking for female, 25-38, slim, 5ft 2ins plus for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408575

CANTERBURY mature male, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, sign language interpreter, seeks slim-medium build female, 24-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697

ADAM 48, single dad, bored, seeking fun and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408421

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, fun loving, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409961



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RETIRE male, seeks no strings discreet meets with slim-medium build female, any age for adult fun. Dover. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409533

MALE seeking attractive female for discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409189

MALE seeking female to love and be loved back. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408941

FIT fellow, full of fun, 58, seeks to find fanciable lady for free and fascinating future for LTR. Find your jar half full. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405857

CHRIS 52, slim, looking for female, 25-38, slim, 5ft 2ins plus for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408575

DAVE 50, likes holidays, meals out, socialising, easy going, seeks female 40 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408541

DAVE 50, seeks female of similar age for meals out, holidays etc. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408415

BLACK male, looking for 1-2-1 relationship with laid back, understanding female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406221

RETIRE male, seeks no strings discreet meets with slim-medium build female, any age for adult fun. Medway area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408343

RETIRE male, 66, 6ft 2ins, easy going, GSOH, loyal, loves pets, meals out, life, seeks lady for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407317

71YR old romantic, 6ft, likes life, socialising, reading, strong tea, dogs, smoker but house trained seeks mature lady needing TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407277

TALL friendly, very light hearted, single 58, seeks pretty woman for LTR, mutual selection of activities and choosing how to spend our time. Croydon. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407147

YOUNG 70 widower, fit, lonely, 5ft 11ins, 1st, likes drives, walks, DIY, meals out, gardening, smoker, looking for lady to spend life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405519

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388372

RETIRE male 68, 5ft 8ins, considerate, GSOH, easygoing, likes driving, shopping, likes music, seeking lady 60-70 for friendship. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404589

MALE 67, professional, fit, 5ft 10ins, medium build, reliable, tactile, likes most things, seeks slim lady, let's go! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407855

STEVE 6ft 4ins, OHAC, seeking relationship, outdoor type, homely, wanting mutual good relationship with sexy woman. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407835

ANTHONY 48, athletic, enjoys country walks, seeks youthful female for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407355

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Public holds court as tennis is brought to the nation (all of it)

THERE was a time when much of this country would go into some kind of collective meltdown after another risible national showing at Wimbledon. When, the chattering masses whickered, would we ever win the thing?

They were, of course, talking about the men's singles title, but Andy Murray's victory in July last year, when he became the first Brit for 77 years to win it, rested such gnashing of teeth, although what the dinner-party set will make of it all should Scotland vote for independence later this year is anyone's guess.

No matter, Wimbledon is almost upon us again and this week Scotsman Murray has fared well at the French Open in Paris.

All of which bodes well for this year's series of Great British Tennis Weekends, the first of which took place last month; three are to follow.

The weekends are set up by the Lawn Tennis Association and the Tennis Foundation, the country's leading tennis charity, with a view to engaging the Great British public with the sport.

Tudor Rowe is Kent's tennis development manager and happy to explain the thinking behind the project.

"Basically, it's a national campaign to get more people playing tennis more often at venues throughout the country. Just in Kent alone, there were 30 open days delivered on the first weekend, with 90 across all four – and it's still going up. There's a growing momentum that raises awareness about the sport.

"The weather helps, of course, and a new website has enabled people to find what is happening locally for them, so they can book for the whole family – we had 750 booked in for that first weekend."

Although there is of course the hope, however quietly spoken, that the free-of-charge weekends might help develop world-conquering talent, it is clear that the ambition to involve people at all levels of age, society and fitness is uppermost.

There is cardio tennis to music ("just about getting energy levels up and burning calories – you don't have to be tennis-player"), mini or tots' tennis, disability tennis and Tennis Xpress, along with the opportunity for more conventional coaching.

"They are all just different ways of getting people to start tennis and growing our base," said Rowe.

"Children can play from as young as three, where it's just about movement skills, agility, balance and awareness of the body, and it goes all the way up to grandparents who play the game. There are players representing the county's senior teams at the age of 75 – you can't say that about boxing or rugby."

So we can pretty much all have a



START 'EM YOUNG: Children as young as three are being involved in the Great British Tennis Weekends... three more are due to be held this summer

The stuffy image is being shed and a new initiative is demonstrating that here is a sport for all. By **David Mairs.**

go, especially when we know where we can try out the game for free and we've learnt what follow-on offers, such as trial memberships or reduced rates, there might be.

"Once families have been attracted to try it out, they might want to take it further," said Rowe.

And those families are not exposed to the full rigours of tennis immediately. Low-compression balls, for example, allow even adult beginners to feel their way into the sport.

"It's almost a sponge ball – much slower," said Rowe. "Once you have success with that and get a feel for it, you can move up in hardness until you're comfortable rallying from the back of the court."

"The worst thing for people starting out with the standard balls would be to spend their entire time picking them up – they might as well be playing golf."

This is the first full year of Great British Tennis Weekends, following last year's pilot scheme, which built on Murray's triumph at Wimbledon.

"Parks were chosen to attract people on the back of Murray's success," said Rowe. "It's bigger and better this year, with the four weekends running through the summer – we're capitalising on this time."

Of the 750 who booked for the May weekend, some 500 turned up. It's not a bad hit rate, but it's difficult to determine the exact figures.

"We're reliant on the venues to track them accurately. We ask them to provide an event summary from the first weekend as to how many people came along and signed up to come again, and whether they're doing mini, cardio, Xpress or whatever."

Rowe stresses that he's on the "development side of things" rather





THE PEOPLE'S SPORT: Whatever our age, whatever our ability, we are all encouraged to try our hand at tennis

than performance but, if pushed, will offer his thoughts on the state of the game in this country.

"We do very well internationally at junior level and we've won the junior version of the Davis Cup.

"There's kind of a pathway developing through performance centres to high-performance centres, then international high-performance centres. This is starting to bear fruit, with players like Kyle Edmund and Heather Watson, but it is a journey to get there. "The average age of the top 100 players is 26, so it's a quite journey to get to that level and acquire the weaponry to compete there.

"The pathway was established in 2006, when Roger Draper was chief executive of the LTA and the blueprint evolved when Michael Downey came in and made some tweaks.

"You might play at school or in a park that has a link to a club. Then, if you're enthusiastic or have an ability for the game, you might compete locally and go on to a performance centre."

In Kent, there are such centres at Parklangley in Beckenham; West Heath in Sevenoaks; Bromley; and Polo Farm, near Canterbury.

All well and good, but there's a definite cluster in the north-west and metropolitan belt. Canterbury accepted, isn't there more that could be done in the east of the county?

"There's a new indoor centre attached to Tides at Deal, which both the LTA and the local authority have invested in – it's really buzzing," said Rowe.

It's difficult to dispute that the game is being taken forward, but there's still that awkward fact that few British players make the leap from success at junior level to competing at the highest echelons.

"I think the journey to the top is longer than people anticipate and you guys [the media] get excited, but there's a very different environment between the junior and senior tours.

"I don't think it's a lack of commitment – it's more that to get to the top of any sport you're not going to get hundreds and hundreds reaching that level. There are more people at the base and they're not all aspiring to be superstars."

A frequent charge levelled at tennis in this country is that its middle-class image has hindered the development

of potential talent from all levels of society. It's something Rowe acknowledges, but he stresses that progress is being made in this area.

"It's definitely changing, especially with the LTA focus on community park sites. Many people's first taste of tennis is in their local park clubs – it's far less stuffy now and there's not the all-whites rule, for example.

"In many places, you can be paying less than £2 a week to play. There are different products now and they're linking in with leisure centres.

"We're trying to listen to the consumers about what they want. We have to attract them and retain them – those are the two biggies. The Active Sport Survey by Sport England showed we're punching above our weight."

And that flush of quality English players – when might we expect that?

"There's not a magic bullet. A pathway for players is being worked out, but it takes time – it's as simple as that."

■ The next Great British Tennis Weekends are June 21–22, June 28–29 and July 19–20. Families can book online and find out more information about their local venues at www.greatbritishtennisweekend.com.

Challenge shield pays tribute to former captain Denness

CRICKET has a new competition – the Mike Denness Challenge Shield.

Named in honour of the man who in turn captained both counties, it will be contested between Kent and Essex every season and take into account each match played between them

"Mike was an outstanding cricketer for Kent, Essex and England and had the rare distinction of captaining neighbouring counties", said Kent cricket president and former team-mate Graham Johnson. "We thought it wholly appropriate to honour his memory in this manner."

The shield will be contested in all matches played between the counties during the season.

Two points will be attributed for LV= County Championship wins and one point for limited-overs victories; the county with the most points at the end of the season will take the shield.



HONOUR: Mike Denness



Hess to play in match for George

ANDY Hessenthaler is playing in a match today (Sunday) to raise funds for former Gillingham goalkeeper George Howard.

The Gills assistant boss is dusting off his boots for today's game at Eltham as clubs, supporters and members of the public across Kent show their support for 20-year-old George, who was involved in a car accident in South Africa and remains in hospital.

Today's game will see a Kent Pro XI play a George Howard Kent League XI at Coldharbour Leisure Centre (kick-off 1.30pm).

The venue has been donated for free and supporters can donate their admission fee on arrival.

Former Gillingham and Millwall striker and current Sevenoaks Town manager Micky Collins will manage a side of players from Kent, with confirmed players including Luke Rooney, Simon Osborn, Jay Saunders and Hessenthaler.

The Gillingham website reports that the latest it has on George's condition, via his gofundme page, is that he is breathing on his own without the aid of life-support.

More than £12,500 has already been raised to contribute to George's recovery and you can donate by visiting www.gofundme.com/9ktsy0.

ALL IN VAIN: Rob Key cracked 89

Kent slump to first T20 loss of the season

KENT suffered their first T20 defeat of the season on Thursday night, going down by 22 runs to Hampshire at the Ageas Bowl.

Former Kent batsman Michael Carberry did much of the damage against his former county, smashing 73 from 58 balls. He was supported by Jimmy Adams, who hit 47 as the hosts made 171-7 from their 20 overs.

In response, Kent struggled throughout to keep up with the run rate, only rarely threatening to accelerate sufficiently.

Captain Rob Key cracked an unbeaten 89, but only Sam Northeast with 35 kept him company for long and once he was dismissed Kent subsided tamely.

Cuesta back at Crusaders next term

IVAN Cuesta has agreed to return for another season with Medway Crusaders as head coach and director of basketball.

Cuesta is just completing his first

season in England and has already made a big impact. Next term will see him take on a larger role across the juniors while still coaching one of the Crusaders men's teams.

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